

EEA Migrant Workers and Student Funding

This is a basic overview of student funding arrangements for EEA Migrant Workers and their families i.e. nationals from EEA member states who are exercising their right to work in the UK. The rules are complicated, so for more detailed information you should always contact the Student Welfare Advice Team (SWAT).

If you have already applied to the EU team for fee support and think you may qualify as a Migrant Worker, seek advice from SWAT. EU Nationals who have been resident in the UK for five years before the start of your course, i.e. 1 September, 1 January, and 1 April (whichever is closest to the start of your course), may be entitled to the full Student Support Package. See Welfare Advice Guides: 2018/19 'Full-time Students Funding'

Note: If you have already completed a degree course in the UK or any other country you will not qualify for any financial help towards your fees or living costs.

In addition, if you have studied at HE level before, even if you did not gain a qualification, your entitlement will be affected. Please seek advice.

Which countries are in the EEA?

The EEA consists of all the following countries:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and UK.

Swiss Nationals and their children have similar rights to EEA nationals.

Who is an EEA Migrant Worker?

Put simply, an EEA Migrant Worker is a national of a member state who has moved to another EEA member state to **work**.

Am I allowed to work in the UK?

Yes. Most EEA nationals have no restrictions on working in the UK. However, if you are a national of Croatia please see: www.gov.uk/croatian-national/overview

What are the advantages of being an EEA Migrant Worker?

As a Migrant Worker you may be entitled to fee support, living cost support and the University's Student Support Fund (SSF). Some of these funds will depend upon your family income so you will need to provide their details if you submit an application.

How do EEA Migrant Workers qualify for the whole funding package?

In order to qualify for Student Support as an EEA Migrant Worker, you need to be:

- Ordinarily resident in the UK on the first day of the first academic year of the course i.e. 1 September, 1 January, 1 April, whichever is closest to the start of your course.
- Ordinarily resident in the EEA for three years prior to the commencement of the course.
- Authorised to work in the UK (Bulgarian and Romanian workers only).

In addition, you must show one of the following:

- Prior to starting your course you worked and you continue to work either full or part-time while studying.
- You have been working in the UK, stopped when you started your course, **but** you can demonstrate a link between your previous employment and your studies e.g. if you were working as a Health Care Assistant and you gave up your job to study a Degree in Nursing.
- You get a job after you have started your course and continue to work while studying. But remember, you must also have been resident on the first day of the first academic year of the course.
- If you have been resident in the UK for less than 3 months, your 'primary intention' is likely to be challenged.

I think I am an EEA Migrant Worker. What next?

You should download a paper form for both **fee** and **living cost** support from Student Finance England at: www.gov.uk/student-finance or you can request an application pack by telephoning 0300 100 0607.

Ask for the PN1 form.

You will also need to supply the following evidence with your application:

- National Insurance Number
- Passport/National I.D. card (originals)
- Student Bank Account details
- Your household income details. You should provide income from the previous tax year i.e. April to April (UK)
- Your parent's household income details (if you are under 25).

It is essential you provide all addresses prior to the start of the course.

Note: Documentation should be translated and notarised into English.

Student Finance England (SFE) unit will be responsible for determining whether you qualify for funding and also for assessing how much financial support you will be entitled to. However, if your application is rejected, do contact the Student Welfare Advice Team (SWAT) for further advice.

You will need to provide evidence of your continued work in September, December and March in order to maintain your migrant work status. SFE will write to request this.

Can I apply for funding as a Migrant Worker after already having my tuition fees paid as an EU student?

Yes, but please be aware that if your Migrant Worker application is successful, your EU tuition fee funding application will be cancelled.

When completing the PN1 form be sure to request "a loan to pay the full tuition fees charged by your University" on page 16 of the application.

What about family members?

Family members will be considered to hold the status of an EEA migrant worker if one of the following categories applies:

- You are the spouse, civil partner, or are under 21 and a direct descendant of the person, the person's spouse or civil partner, or dependent on the person or person's spouse or civil partner.
- Are a direct relative in the ascending line (parent or step-parent) of the spouse or civil partner.

- However, there is no provision for the ascendants of Swiss workers.

Note: Children of Turkish workers also qualify for the whole student support package.

What does the funding package include?

The funding package may include:

- Fee Loan (non means-tested)
- Maintenance Loan
- Adult Dependant Grant (means-tested)
- Parent Learning Allowance (means-tested)
- Childcare Grant (means-tested)
- Disabled Student Allowances (non means tested)

If your application is successful, it is important that you continue to work while you are studying (unless there is a link between your previous employment and the course you are studying) or you will lose your entitlement to the living cost support mentioned above. In addition, if you decide to go on a student exchange or a placement you may have problems, seek advice first.

The funding for fees and maintenance is released on a 'per term' basis. You will be asked to provide evidence of your continuous employment at the start of each term in order for your funding to be released.

For a more detailed overview of the funding package see Welfare Advice Guide: 2018/19 'Full-time Students Funding'. Also see link www.ukcisa.org.uk

Any questions?

For more useful information contact Student Welfare Advice Team (SWAT). To see an advisor you can contact the Helpdesk, call 020 8411 3008 or email: welfare@mdx.ac.uk

Check the other Welfare Advice Guides for other useful information at: unihub.mdx.ac.uk/welfare-guides

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