

General information - Fees / Grants

There are two elements to student fees:

- 1) Student Contribution and
- 2) Tuition Fees

Both of these have to be paid for every student. In most cases the government 'free fees' initiative pays the tuition fee element while the student pays the student contribution themselves.

1) Student Contribution - Will I have to pay anything?

The student contribution of €3000 (17/18 rate) is payable by all students - if you are in receipt of a grant SUSI will usually pay this charge. (See below for info on grants).

2) Tuition Fees - Who gets 'free' fees?

EU Students enrolled on fulltime undergraduate programmes with no prior third level education will qualify for Free Tuition Fees (subject to certain criteria - see www.studentfinance.ie or www.heai.ie for further information) under the HEA 'free fees' initiative.

Non EU students will not normally qualify for free tuition; they have to pay the non-EU fee which is set by the HEA. The non-EU fee is in the region of €12,500 per annum. In some cases non-EU students may qualify to pay fees at the EU rate. The EU fee varies between approximately €250 and €1,000 per annum depending on the course of study.

The student contribution and tuition fees are set by the government.

Where do I apply for a grant?

All new grant applications for September 2018 will be made via www.susi.ie.

How do I know if I am eligible for a grant?

Grants are given based on income. The income limits are adjusted according to the number of dependent children in the household and other factors - for information on all of these variables see www.susi.ie

Grant Information

There are three classes of grant under the current Student Grant Scheme:

1. a maintenance grant;
2. a fee grant, and
3. a postgraduate fee contribution (not dealt with in this info sheet)

1. Maintenance grant:

A maintenance grant is a contribution towards the living costs of a student and is payable at

- (a) the standard rate, at either a full (100%) or part (75%, 50% or 25%), depending on the level of reckonable income or
- (b) the special rate which is payable depending on the level of reckonable income and on condition that you are in receipt of an eligible (see www.susi.ie).

The maintenance grant is paid at either the adjacent or non-adjacent rate, depending on the distance between a student's normal residence and the institution where the approved course takes place. The adjacent rate is payable if the student's normal residence is determined by the awarding authority to be 45km or less from the approved institution they are attending. The non-adjacent rate is payable in all other cases.

A tuition student does not qualify for a maintenance grant.

The levels of maintenance grant applicable for 2017-18 were as follows: (all figures are in euros)

Levels of Grant	Non-adjacent Rate	Adjacent Rate	Student Contribution Paid?
Special rate of maintenance grant	5,915	2,375	✓
Standard rate-100% maintenance	3,025	1,215	✓
Standard rate-75% maintenance	2,270	910	✓
Standard rate-50% maintenance	1,515	605	✓
Standard rate-25% maintenance	755	305	✓

2. Fee grant

A student can be considered for a fee grant which is made up of three elements (tuition fee element, student contribution element and a field trip element). The reckonable income bands for maintenance and fee grants and the approved course you are attending will determine the various elements of the fee grant that may be payable.

(i) Tuition fee element

If you are pursuing an approved undergraduate course in the State, and your fees are not being met under the [Free Fees Schemes](#), or if you are pursuing an approved postgraduate course in the State or Northern Ireland you may be eligible for the tuition fee element of the fee grant. The rate payable (if any) is dependent on the level of your reckonable income and is subject to maximum fee limit.

(ii) Student contribution element

The student contribution charge for 2017-2018 is €3,000. This charge is payable by students who qualify for free tuition fees under the Free Fees Schemes. You may be eligible for a full (100%) or part (50%) grant in respect of the student contribution charge depending on the level of your reckonable income.

(iii) Field trip element

A field trip is defined as a compulsory and integral part of a courses, which is for fact-finding or research purposes, and without which the student cannot graduate or progress to the next year of their course.

The [expenditure](#) that is eligible for consideration in respect of a field trip grant is the reasonably incurred, receipted cost of travel and accommodation directly associated with the field trip.

Please refer to www.studentfinance.ie for further information on all matters relating to grants and fees.