

Access to Learning Fund – Frequently Asked Questions

How does the Access to Learning Fund work? After completing the application form and supplying the requested evidence, your form will be assessed on an income against expenditure basis.

When can I apply? Once you are registered on your course, you can apply at any point of the academic year up until the deadline of 1st June 2012.

Is it worth my while applying? All applications are treated sympathetically but this is a limited fund, therefore awards may be capped and cannot be guaranteed. Predictions of awards, pre-assessment, are not usually possible.

Can I apply if I don't have a student loan or have been non-means tested by Student Finance England (SFE)? You are ineligible to apply for the fund if you have not been income assessed **OR** if you have not taken the full amount of student funding available to you. In order to apply for the Access to Learning Fund you will need to contact SFE to be re-assessed or to claim the full amount of funding. In exceptional cases **ONLY**, we are able to accept proof of parents' income instead, but only if the earnings are above the SFE income threshold.

Why do I need to supply so much evidence? Our regulations require us to have proof of all relevant income and expenditure, in order to produce an accurate assessment. It also enables us to check that a student is receiving all the funding they are entitled to.

Do I really need to supply 3 months bank statements? Yes you do, for every account held. Without these your application will not be accepted, unless there is an exceptional reason. If you do not have these to hand you will need to request them from your bank / print from internet.

What if I have not got a copy of my finance breakdown letter or payment timetable? You will need to contact SFE to request copies or download the documents from your account via their website at ww.direct.gov.uk

What will happen if I do not provide all the requested evidence? Your form will not be accepted or processed which will delay your application.

What if I am not sure what evidence is relevant to my situation or what a certain piece of requested evidence is? Please contact Student Money Advice or a Student Information Desk.

How will I find out the result of my application? You will receive written and email notification. Usually you will receive this within approximately 4 weeks of your form being complete (i.e. after all requested evidence has been submitted and accepted). So there is no need to ring for a progress update as you will be informed as soon as your application has been assessed.