

Educational Grants Act

2003 No 79, 26 March

Entry into force 1 July 2003 Amended by Act No 108/2011 (entry into force 17 September 2011).

*Any reference in this Act to “the Minister” or “the Ministry” not accompanied by express mention of or reference to a specific field of responsibility shall be understood as being a reference to the **Minister of Education, Science and Culture** or to the **Ministry of Education, Science and Culture** as responsible for the implementation of this Act.*

Article 1 The Treasury shall award educational grants for the purpose of reducing the financial inequalities existing between students enrolled in upper secondary schools [and higher education institutions]⁽¹⁾ to the extent that they have unequal financial burdens as a consequence of their region of residence or suffer from a lack of means that makes it difficult for them to pursue their studies.

⁽¹⁾Act No 108/2011, Article 1.

Article 2 The right to be awarded grants pursuant to this Act shall be restricted to students who:

1. are either Icelandic citizens or foreign citizens entitled to educational grants under an agreement between the Icelandic government and other countries;
2. [pursue regular studies either at an Icelandic upper secondary school or at the upper secondary level in another country, provided that the student does not have the possibility to pursue comparable studies while remaining at her/his legal residence or other equivalent place of living in Iceland];⁽¹⁾

[3. are still under the age of 18 and pursue regular higher education studies in Iceland aiming at a formal completion of studies in an academic discipline accredited by the Minister pursuant to the Higher Education Act];⁽¹⁾

[4.]⁽¹⁾ either suffer from a lack of means that makes it difficult for them to pursue their studies or must live away from their families because of the studies, provided that the student does not have the possibility to pursue comparable studies while remaining at her/his legal residence or other equivalent place of living.

Article 2 The right to be awarded a grant shall not extend to those who are entitled to student loans from the Icelandic Student Loan Fund or who receive similar financial support.

⁽¹⁾Act No 108/2011, Article 2.

Article 3 For the purposes of this Act, the term educational grants shall cover the following:

1. Subsistence grants, composed of grants to cover travel costs, food costs and accommodation costs. Subsistence grants shall be awarded on the condition that the studies make it necessary for the student to take up lodgings at a distance of at least 30 km from her/his place of legal residence and away from her/his family. However, subsistence grants may be awarded even if this distance is smaller than 30 km, provided that transport to and from the school presents particular difficulty to the student for reasons including weather conditions, poor roads, or a lack of public transport.