1993 No. 288

EDUCATION

The Education (Student Loans) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993

Made	*23rd June 1993*
Coming into operation . .	*1st August 1993*

The Department of Education, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 3(2) and paragraphs 1(1), (3) and (4) and 2(1) and 3(4) of Schedule 2 to the Education (Student Loans) (Northern Ireland) Order 1990(**a**) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:

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CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY

PART I

GENERAL

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Education (Student Loans) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993 and shall come into operation on 1st August 1993.

Revocation

2.—(1) The Education (Student Loans) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992(**a**) are hereby revoked.

Interpretation

3.—(1) In these Regulations—

"accelerated course" means a course which persons undertaking it are normally required by the institution providing it to attend (whether at premises of the institution or elsewhere) for a period of at least 40 weeks in the final year, being a course of two academic years' duration or a course for the degree of BA (Hons.) with Qualified Teacher Status awarded by St. Martin's College, Lancaster;

"the Order" means the Education (Student Loans) (Northern Ireland) Order 1990;

"borrower" means a person to whom a loan has been made;

"eligible" means eligible for the purposes of Article 3 of the Order read with regulation 4 and the Schedule;

(a) S.R. 1992 No. 279

"full-time course" means a sandwich course or a course—

(*a*) which persons undertaking it are normally required by the institution providing it to attend (whether at premises of the institution or elsewhere)—

(i) in the case of a course of one academic year's duration, for a period of at least 24 weeks; and

(ii) in the case of a course of two or more academic years' duration, for a period of at least 24 weeks in each academic year except the final year and of at least eight weeks in the final year; and

(*b*) the nature of which is such that a person undertaking it would normally require to undertake periods of study, tuition or work experience which together amount in each academic year to an average of at least 21 hours a week as respects the periods of attendance mentioned in sub-paragraph (*a*) above for the year;

"loan" means a loan (whether made before or after the coming into operation of these Regulations) towards a student's maintenance out of money made available by the Department for that purpose pursuant to arrangements made by the Department by virtue of Article 3 of the Order including the interest accrued on the loan and the amount of the loan from time to time outstanding;

"loans administrator" means any person or body for the time being exercising functions in relation to loans under arrangements made with the Department pursuant to paragraph 3 of Schedule 2 to the Order;

"periods of work experience" means periods of industrial, professional or commercial experience associated with full-time study at an institution but at a place outside the institution;

"refugee" means a person who is recognised by Her Majesty's government as a refugee within the meaning of the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees done at Geneva on 28th July 1951(**a**) as extended by the Protocol thereto which entered into force on 4th October 1967(**b**) or a person who enjoys asylum in the United Kingdom in pursuance of a decision of Her Majesty's government though not so recognised, and any reference to the child of a refugee includes a reference to a person adopted in pursuance of adoption proceedings and a step-child; and

"sandwich course" means a course consisting of alternate periods of full-time study in an institution and periods of work experience so organised that, taking the course as a whole, the student attends the periods of full-time study for an average of not less than 19 weeks in each year; and for the purpose of calculating his attendance the course

(**a**) Cmnd. 9171
(**b**) Cmnd. 3906 (Out of print: photocopies are available, free of charge, from Student Support Branch, Department of Education, Rathgael House, Balloo Road, Bangor, Co. Down BT19 7PR)

shall be treated as beginning with the first period of full-time study and ending with the last such period.

(2) For the purposes of these Regulations an academic year which begins in the month of July in any year shall be deemed to begin in the month of August immediately following that month.

PART II

ELIGIBILITY FOR LOANS

Conditions of eligibility

4.—(1) A student attending a course of higher education of at least one academic year's duration shall be eligible for a loan in relation to an academic year which begins on or after 1st August 1993 if—

(*a*) his course of study during that academic year forms part or all of—

(i) a full-time course; or

(ii) a course (whether or not full-time) for the initial training of teachers for the time being so designated; and

(*b*) (i) he satisfies the conditions prescribed in the Schedule to these regulations; or

(ii) before the commencement of or at any time during that academic year he has been recognised as a refugee and from that time he has been ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, or is the spouse or child of such a person; and

(*c*) the loans administrator has received the certified eligibility form referred to in regulation 13(2)(*g*) in connection with his application for the loan; and

(*d*) he has agreed with the loans administrator to notify the latter promptly in writing if he ceases to attend his course—

(i) because he has completed it on a date earlier than that specified by him in the eligibility form issued to him under regulation 13(2)(*d*); or

(ii) otherwise than because he has completed it; and

(*e*) he has agreed with the loans administrator to accept payment of the loan by direct credit to his bank or building society account and has provided the loans administrator with a signed direct debiting instruction in favour of the loans administrator in respect of repayments of the loan from that account; and

(*f*) he has entered into an agreement for the loan not later than the end of the period of 12 months beginning on 1st August in which that academic year begins; and

(*g*) he is not a person to whom paragraph (2) applies.

(2) This paragraph applies to a person who—

(*a*) before the date on which the course begins has attained the age of fifty years; or

(*b*) is attending a course leading to registration on Part 12, 13, 14 or 15 of the register maintained by the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting under section 10 of the Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors Act 1979(**a**) and is eligible to receive payment of a bursary or salary out of funds paid by the Secretary of State under section 97 of the National Health Service Act 1977(**b**) or section 85(1) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978(**c**) or by the Department of Health and Social Services(**d**) under Article 87 of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972(**e**); or

(*c*) is studying for the Postgraduate Certificate in Education as a participant in arrangements made by a local education authority in England or Wales for the training of teachers known as the "Articled Teachers Scheme"; or

(*d*) is in breach of any obligation contained in any agreement for a loan; or

(*e*) was under the age of 18 when any agreement for a loan was made with him and who has not ratified that agreement after attaining that age.

(3) A student shall not be eligible for a loan in relation to more than one academic year or more than one course beginning in any period of twelve months beginning on 1st August in any year.

PART III

DESIGNATION OF COURSES

Designation of courses by the Department

5. For the purposes of Article 3 of the Order the Department may designate courses of higher education at institutions other than institutions receiving support from public funds.

PART IV

LOANS: PRINCIPAL, INTEREST AND REPAYMENTS

Amounts of loans

6.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (3) to (5), in the case of a student attending a course at the University of London or at any institution within the area comprising the City of London and the metropolitan police district, the maximum amount of the loan in relation to any academic year shall be—

(*a*) where the year is the final year of the course, £470 where he resides at his parents' home, and £685 where he does not so reside; and

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(**a**) 1979 c. 36
(**b**) 1977 c. 49: substituted by section 6 of the Health Services Act 1980 (c. 53)
(**c**) 1978 c. 29: substituted by section 6 of the Health Services Act 1980 (c. 53)
(**d**) *See* the definition of "Ministry" as read with paragraph 8(1) of Schedule 5 to the Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973 (c. 36)
(**e**) S.I. 1972/1265 (N.I. 14)