

Free Fees Initiative

Criteria for Determining Eligibility

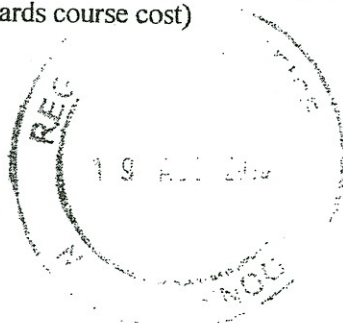
Tuition fees may be paid in respect of the full-time students listed below who have been ordinarily resident in an EU/EEA/Swiss State for at least three of the five years preceding their entry to their third-level course and who meet the criteria of the scheme. Eligibility under the scheme is determined at date of entry to the course. Details of the nationality criteria to be applied are attached at Appendix 1.

The scheme is subject to the following conditions -

- (1) Tuition fees will be paid in respect only of students attending full-time undergraduate courses.
- (2) The courses must, other than exceptionally, be of a minimum of two years duration.
- (3) The courses must be followed in one of the institutions listed in Appendix 2.
- (4) Tuition fees will not be paid in respect of:
 - students pursuing a second undergraduate course.
 - students who already hold a postgraduate qualification

Notwithstanding this condition and subject to compliance with the other conditions of the Free Fees initiative, students who already hold a Level 6 qualification (Higher Certificate or National Certificate) or a Level 7 qualification (Ordinary Bachelor Degree or National Diploma) and are progressing to a Level 8 (Honours Bachelor Degree) course without necessarily having received an exemption from the normal duration of the course may be deemed eligible for free fees,

- (5) Tuition fees will also not be paid in respect of students undertaking a repeat year of study at the same year level. In this regard, this condition may be waived where evidence of exceptional circumstances, such as cases of certified serious illness, is provided.
- (6) Subject to compliance with the other conditions of the Free Fees initiative, students who have previously pursued but have not completed a course of third level study and subsequently resume third level studies:
 - (a) may be deemed eligible for free fees where the third level course concerned did not attract any exchequer funding (e.g. fees, maintenance, tax relief, subsidy towards course cost)



- (b) are not eligible for free fees for the equivalent period of time spent on the first course of study where the third level course concerned did attract exchequer funding (as above). Part-time and evening students are included in this category.
- (7) Tuition fees will be paid in respect of eligible students who, having attended but not completed approved courses, are returning following a break of at least five years in order to pursue approved courses at the same level in the 2010/2011 academic year.
- (8) The tuition fees payable do not include the payment to be made by students towards the cost of registration, examination and student services.

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