

Amendment to the Access to Learning Fund Guidance Notes 2020/21
February 2021

Please read in conjunction with the
Access to Learning Fund Guidance Notes for Students 2020/21

In January and February 2021, the Office for Students allocated additional funding to higher education providers to help to address student hardship. This funding has been made available by the government to recognise the particular impact this year on individual students arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to this we have reviewed our Access to Learning Fund assessment processes and we are implementing the following changes for assessments completed from 4th January to 31st July 2021 or when funds are exhausted (whichever is sooner).

1. Reduce the Assumed Income amount used in standard undergraduate assessments by 50%. The revised amounts are:
 - £333 for full-time final year students
 - £1,000 for other full-time years of study
2. Reduce the Minimum Required Provision amount used in standard postgraduate assessments by 50%. The revised amounts are:
 - £99 per week for those with dependants or those who are unable to work due to disability or ill health
 - £119 per week for all other postgraduate students
3. Include a 'COVID premium' amount of £500 in the expenditure section of all standard assessments to take into account that students may be covering additional IT-related costs and other costs associated with studying remotely
4. Make awards of 100% (rather than 80%) of the assessed additional financial need to students in priority groups, up to the maximum of £3,500 per student

We will revisit all the Access to Learning Fund assessments we have completed since 4th January 2021 and applicants will be contacted if they become eligible for any additional funds.

Applicants whose assessments were completed before 4th January 2021 are welcome to contact us for a reassessment if they feel that COVID-19 is impacting their financial situation, or if their financial circumstances have changed in any other way.

If you have any questions about the above changes please email the Student Finance Adviser at alf@sgul.ac.uk.