Equivalent or Lower Qualifications (ELQs) 2015

If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact Financial Support:
t: +44 (0)115 823 2071
e: financialsupport@nottingham.ac.uk

In September 2007 the Government announced that it would no longer provide public funding for Home/EU students studying for a qualification that is equivalent to, or of a lower level (ELQ) to that which the student already holds. This means that if you already have a first degree (e.g. BA, BSc) and wish to study for another undergraduate degree you will be charged a higher, non-subsidised tuition fee.

Here at the University of Nottingham there are four ELQ supplements for full time courses in 2015/16 depending on whether you are an undergraduate or postgraduate, new or continuing student. They are:

**Full Time Undergraduate**
- Entry pre 2012: £3,560
- Entry 2012 and post 2012: £1,480

**Full Time Postgraduate**
- Entry pre 2012: £1,590
- Entry 2012 and post 2012: £1,560

The tuition fee for a continuing student on a full time, undergraduate course in 2015/16 is £3,465 – so an ELQ student would pay (£3,465 + £3,560) £7,025.

The tuition fee for a new student on a full time, undergraduate course in 2015/16 is £9,000 – so an ELQ student would pay (£9,000 + £1,480) £10,480.

If you plan to study for a qualification at the same level as one you already hold you may not be eligible for any Tuition Fee Loan, Maintenance Loan or grant. However, you would still be able to apply for extra support such as Disabled Students’ Allowances (DSAs), Parent’s Learning Allowance, Adult Dependents Grant and Childcare Grant.

**Part Time Courses**
The ELQ supplement for part time courses is calculated on a pro rata basis from the appropriate full time fee, depending on how many modules are being taken.

Further details, and the tuition fee amounts for all courses, are available on the Tuition Fees section of the University website: www.nottingham.ac.uk/fees

**Three ELQ Exemptions:**
**Exemptions 1 – courses**
There are some exemptions to the ELQ legislation. New ‘Home’ students taking a second undergraduate degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, architecture or social work will pay the regular tuition fee (£9,000 in 2015/16). Additionally, they may still be eligible to take out a Maintenance Loan from Student Finance. However, they are ineligible for a Tuition Fee Loan or a Maintenance/Special Support Grant.

**Part Time Engineering, Technology and Computer Science**
Home students taking a second undergraduate degree part time in engineering, technology or computer science are eligible for a tuition fee loan from the 2015/16 academic year even if they already hold an equivalent or higher level qualification.
**Exemptions 2 – Disabled Students Allowance (DSAs)**
Students in receipt of a DSA are exempt from ELQ legislation and therefore do not have to pay a higher rate of tuition fees (they will pay £9,000 from 2012/13). However they are ineligible for a Maintenance Grant, Maintenance Loan or Tuition Fee Loan from Student Finance.

**Exemptions 3 – NHS means-tested bursaries**
Students who are eligible for a means-tested NHS bursary (e.g. BSc Nursing, BMid Midwifery, BSc Physiotherapy) will continue to be eligible for a Reduced Rate Student Loan from Student Finance whether or not they already hold an equivalent or higher level qualification.

If you are unsure whether your previous study affects your eligibility for student finance, please speak to either Student Finance or our Admissions Office here at the University for clarification.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>University Bursaries &amp; Scholarships</th>
<th>Maintenance Grant</th>
<th>Maintenance Loan</th>
<th>Tuition Fee Loan</th>
<th>HEU UG Tuition Fee in 2015/16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First time students</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>£9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students on ELQ exempt courses</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>£9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSA students on a second degree</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>£9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New ELQ students</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>£10,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New part time students on</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Please check with your School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering, Technology or</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Intercalation**
Intercalation is when a student interrupts their course to study for a (related) degree, then returns to complete the original course. Intercalation is most common for Medicine and Veterinary Medicine students and often involves studying for a higher level qualification. However, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) have confirmed that should a student intercalate and gain a Masters or PhD level qualification they would fall under ELQ rules when they return to study on their original (undergraduate level) course. For example, if you intercalated after the third year of a five year BVMBVVS Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Surgery degree, you would be ineligible for a Tuition Fee Loan or a Maintenance/Special Support Grant from Student Finance for the final two years of the BVMBVVS course.

We urge students who are considering intercalating to discuss the funding implications before making a final decision. Support and advice is available from the Financial Support team – contact details are on the final page of this factsheet.
Potential sources of financial help for ELQ students:

The Student Hardship Fund
The Student Hardship Fund provides discretionary financial support and can help alleviate unexpected financial hardship or help to make up a shortfall between income and essential expenditure.

It should be noted that self-funding ELQ students are expected to have made realistic provision at the start of the course to fund both their tuition fees and living costs. Where a student has made reasonable provision but is faced with unexpected essential costs or an unforeseen change of circumstances which causes financial difficulties it may be possible to help through the Hardship Fund.

University Childcare Support Scheme
This scheme offers eligible students help towards meeting the costs of essential registered child care whilst they are studying. As funds are limited the University adopts a selective approach to the allocation of awards to ensure that it is those students who most need assistance, who benefit from the scheme.

Disabled Students Allowances (DSA)
DSAs help students pay for extra costs they face when studying which are incurred as a direct result of a disability, mental health condition or specific learning difficulty. Previous study on a course of higher education does not affect DSA entitlement.

Students in receipt of a DSA are exempt from ELQ legislation and therefore pay the normal Home tuition fee of £9,000 in 2015/16 but are ineligible for a Maintenance Grant, Maintenance Loan or Tuition Fee Loan from Student Finance.
Useful contacts

National contacts

Student Finance England
  t: +44 (0)300 100 0607
  w: www.gov.uk/studentfinance

Student Finance Wales
  t: +44 (0)300 200 4050
  w: www.studentfinancewales.co.uk

Student Finance NI
  t: +44 (0)300 100 0077
  w: www.studentfinanceni.co.uk

Student Awards Agency for Scotland
  t: +44 (0)845 111 1711
  w: www.student-support-saas.gov.uk

NHS Business Services Authority
  t: +44 (0)300 330 1345
  w: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students

National Union of Students (NUS)
  Advice and guidance on all aspects of student life.
  w: www.nus.org.uk

University contacts

Admissions Office
  t: +44 (0)115 951 4749
  w: www.nottingham.ac.uk/admissions

Financial Support, Student Services Centre
  Advice on all aspects of student finance including Student Loans, Government grants, University scholarships, bursaries and support funds.
  t: +44 (0)115 823 2071
  e: financialsupport@nottingham.ac.uk
  w: www.nottingham.ac.uk/financialsupport

Academic Support and Disability Support, Student Services Centre
  Study support, support for students with dyslexia, dyspraxia and other specific learning difficulties and disabilities.
  t: +44 (0)115 823 2070 or +44 (0)115 951 3710
  e: dyslexia-support@nottingham.ac.uk or disability-support@nottingham.ac.uk
  w: www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices

The University of Nottingham Students’ Union Student Advice Centre
  A confidential service available to all University of Nottingham students, giving advice and information on a range of matters, such as housing, money and academic issues.
  t: +44 (0)115 846 9730
  e: SUAdvice@nottingham.ac.uk
  w: www.su.nottingham.ac.uk/advice

All information was correct at the time of writing and is based on data from Gov.UK, The University of Nottingham, the NHSBSA and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information we provide however it can only give general guidance. We would always advise you to contact the relevant funding bodies referenced in relation to your specific circumstances.

Financial Support – February 2015

© The University of Nottingham 2015. All rights reserved.