

Aonad Tacaíochta Do Mhic Léinn,
An Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta,
Bóthar Phort Laoise,
Tulach Mhór,
Co. Uibh Fhailí.



AN ROINN OIDEACHAIS AGUS EOLAÍOCHTA | DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

Student Support Unit,
Department of Education and Science,
Portlaoise Road,
Tullamore,
Co. Offaly.

To All Local Authorities

- (i) **HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS SCHEME, 2006**
- (ii) **THIRD LEVEL MAINTENANCE GRANTS SCHEMES FOR TRAINEES, 2006**
- (iii) **VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEES' SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME, 2006**
- (iv) **MAINTENANCE GRANTS SCHEME FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING PLC COURSES, 2006**

Dear County Secretary/City Manager,

1. Further to the copy of the 2006 Higher Education Grants Scheme which recently issued to your Local Authority electronically, I now attach the "hard copy" of the specimen 2006 Scheme so that:

- (a) it can be adopted by your authority and submitted formally for the approval of the Minister

The closing date for applications is **31st August, 2006** but the Local Authority may, however, accept an application which is not received on time and may, at its own absolute discretion, treat such application as if it had been received on time

2. The principal changes to the Schemes for 2006 are outlined in the attached Appendix for ease of reference.
3. Forms S.A.1 and F.A.1 and F.A.2 are enclosed for issue as applicable. Irish versions of these forms are available on request.
4. Further to the copies recently issued electronically, a "hard copy" of the following schemes are also enclosed for your information: -
 - Vocational Education Committees Scholarship Scheme 2006,
 - the Third Level Maintenance Grants Scheme for Trainees 2006 and
 - the Maintenance Grant Scheme for Students attending Post Leaving Certificate Courses 2006.
5. To facilitate applicants who may be suffering from visual/hearing impairments the schemes can be made available in different formats on request from the Student Support Unit.

The Department will host a briefing session on the Grant Schemes in the near future. Details of the date and venue will follow within the next few days. You will be invited to nominate **TWO** representatives from the student grants section to attend. It is hoped to have a presentation on the day by the Revenue Commissioners on the On Line Self Service System.

Yours sincerely,

Thérèse Conlon
Higher Executive Officer
26th July 2006

Changes to the 2006 Student Maintenance Grant Schemes

A. Changes Common to all 4 Student Maintenance Grant Schemes: -

1. *Reckonable Income limits*

- 5.3% increase in income limits in respect of “Ordinary” rates of maintenance grant;
- 7.18% increase in income limits in respect of Special "Top-up" rate of maintenance grant.

2. *Rates of Grant*

- 3% increase in “Ordinary” rates of maintenance grant;
- 22.5% increase in “Top-up” element of special rate of maintenance grant.

3. *Definitions:*

The definition on the Student Services Charge has been amended to reflect the existing wording of Clause 5.4. of the HEG and VEC scheme

“**student services charge**” means the charge payable by students pursuing an approved course to which the Free Fees Initiative applies in an approved university or third-level institution in Ireland. This charge relates to examination fees, registration and student services.

An addition to Clause 1 of the HEG, VEC and TLT schemes is the following reference to Field Trips.

“**field trip**” means a trip which is compulsory and an integral part of an approved course, which is for fact finding or research purposes, and without which the student cannot graduate or progress to the next year of the course.

B. Changes to 2006 Higher Education Grant Scheme Only

Approved Courses:-

A number of new courses have been approved and/or amended for the 2006 HEG Schemes. The colleges in which changes occurred are listed below together with the list of courses now approved in these institutions with effect from the 2006/07 academic year: -

Holy Ghost College, Kimmage Manor
In respect of the following courses:

- BA in Development Studies [2 years]
- Post Graduate Diploma in Development Studies [1 year]
- MA in Development Studies [2 years]

Mater Dei Institute of Education

In respect of the following courses:

- Bachelor of Religious Studies [4 years]
- BA in Irish Studies and Religious Studies [3 years]
- MA of Religious Science [1 year]
- Graduate Diploma of Religious Studies [1 year]
- Graduate Diploma in Theological Studies [1 year]
- MA in School Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care [1 year]
- MA in Healthcare Chaplaincy [2 years]
- MA in Religion and Culture [1 year]
- MA in Religion and Education [1 year]
- MA in Religious Education (Primary) [1 year]
- MA Education (Research)
- MA English (Research)
- MA History (Research)
- MA Irish Studies (Research)
- MA Music (Research)
- MA Religious Education (Research)
- MA Philosophy (Research)
- MA Theology (Research)
- PhD Education (Research)
- PhD English (Research)
- PhD History (Research)
- PhD Irish Studies (Research)
- PhD Music (Research)
- PhD Religious Education (Research)
- PhD Philosophy (Research)
- PhD Theology (Research)

Milltown Institute of Theology and Philosophy, Dublin

In respect of the following courses:

- BA (Honours) in Theology – NUI [2 years]
- BA (Honours) in Philosophy – NUI [3 years]
- BA (Honours) in Theology & Philosophy– NUI [3 years]
- BA (Honours) in Theology & Pastoral Care – NUI [3 years]
- BA (Honours) in Theology/Spirituality and Pastoral Ministry - NUI [3 years]
- BA (Honours) in Theology & Cultural Studies – NUI [3 years]
- Higher Diploma in Applied Christian Spirituality [1 year]
- Higher Diploma in Biblical Studies [1 year]
- Higher Diploma in Mission Theology [1 year]
- Higher Diploma in Supervisory Practice for Ministry [1 year]
- Higher Diploma in Adult Education in a Christian Context [1 year]
- MA in Applied Christian Spirituality [2 year]
- MA in Supervisory Practice for Ministry [2 years]
- MA in Mission Theology [2 years]
- MA by Research [2 year]
- MA in Applied Ethics and Theology [2 year]
- MA in Biblical Studies [2 year]
- MA in Faith & Culture Studies [1 year]
- PhD by Research [4 years]
- Doctor of Ministry [4 years]

All Hallows College, Drumcondra

In respect of the following courses: -

- BA (Hons) in Theology & Philosophy [4 years]
- BA (Hons) in Theology & Psychology [4 years]

- BA (Hons) in Theology & English Literature [4 years]
- BA (Hons) in Theology & Spirituality [4 years]
- Post Graduate Diploma/MA in Leadership and Pastoral Care [1 year]
- MA in Pastoral Studies by Research [2 years]
- Graduate Diploma in Holistic Development for Pastoral Ministry [1 year]
- Post Graduate Diploma/MA in Holistic Development for Pastoral Ministry
- Master of Arts in Humanities [2 years]
- PhD in Humanities by Research [3/4 years]
- MA in Management: Community and Voluntary Services [1 year]

Carlow College (St Patrick's)

In respect of the following courses: -

- BA (Ordinary) in Humanities {Philosophy, Theology and Arts} [3 years]
- BA (Honours) in Theology [3 years]
- Higher Certificate in Arts in Applied Social Studies in Social Care [2 years]
- BA (Ordinary) in Applied Social Studies in Social Care [1 year add-on]
- BA (Honours) in Humanities (Philosophy, Theology and Arts) [4 years]
- BA (Honours) in Applied Social Studies in Social Care [1 year add-on]
- MA English by Research [2 years]
- MA Philosophy by Research [2 years]
- MA History by Research [2 years]
- MA Religion/Theology by Research [2 years]

In The Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place the Professional Practice Course, Part 1 and Part II continue to be approved for the 2006/07 schemes. You should note that in regard to the PPC Part I for 2006/07 there will be a Summer, Autumn and Winter programme – each run in daytime hours.

Summer	In the Law Society, Blackhall Place	28 th August 2006 – 23 rd March 2007
Autumn	In the Law Society, Blackhall Place	25 th September 2006 – 20 th April 2007
Winter	In premises in Cork (Staffed by Law Society Staff)	November 2006 – June 2007.

Student Support Unit
26th July 2006