

College Grants

Commonly Asked Questions

Q. As I am not living with my parents, can I apply as an independent student even though I am 19.

A. No, you will be assessed under your parents' income details, except in exceptional circumstances.

Q. My parents are separated/ divorced. Do I have to put down details of the parent not living in the family home?

A. No, you do not have to supply information on parent not living in family home but instead you should supply one of the following documents:

- i) Proof of current One-Parent Family Payment
- ii) Maintenance Agreement/ Order
- iii) An affidavit sworn before a Commissioner for Oaths that parents are separated.

Q. I have forwarded the forms but was wondering when I will be contacted?

A. It depends on how many applications are pending and the process can take 4 - 6 weeks. You will be notified by letter. Delays can occur if your form is sent in late or is 'incomplete' and has to be returned to you.

Q. How do I get my P21 (tax) form

A. If your parents/ you are a PAYE worker and live in Dublin, telephone 1890 333425. You will need your PPS number and the operator will assist you. Keep trying as this can be a very busy service.

Q. How will my Grant be paid?

A. Higher Education Grants and VEC Scholarship Grants are paid in three equal instalments. A cheque in your name will be sent by the VEC/ County Council to your college.

The PLC Grant and the TLT grants (in respect of Level 6/ 7 courses) are paid to students, by the relevant Institute of Technology or College of Further education, monthly in arrears.

Q. I have applied for a PLC course, do I have to pay the registration fee to the college.

A. Yes, the maintenance grant scheme does not cover the charge for registration or exam fees. However, the Student Service Charge of up to €1,200 (2009), payable in respect of all grant holders pursuing courses where free fees apply is paid directly to the relevant universities or institutes of technology.

Q. I have applied to the wrong VEC, do I fill out a new Form?

A. No, it is not necessary to fill out a new form. Contact the authority you sent the original to and request that they forward it to the correct VEC.

Q. Can I be funded to pursue an undergraduate course in the UK or anywhere in the EU?

A. Yes. Maintenance Grants are available for approved undergraduate courses with certain exceptions within the EU including the UK.

For further information and application forms contact:

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