

Part Time Students

Statutory Support - LEA / Student Loan Company

Part-Time Fee Grant

This grant will be up to £1180. Students must be studying at least 50% or more of an equivalent full-time course. The amount of support that you will receive is linked to the intensity of your studies. You will not have to repay this grant but the amount you receive is based on your household income.

Help With Course Costs

A grant of up to £255 is available to help you meet the cost of books, travel and course expenditure. You will not have to repay this grant but the amount you receive is based on your household income.

Your benefits will not be affected by receiving the part-time course and fee grant.

<u>Intensity of Study</u>	<u>Max Fee Grant Available</u>	<u>Max Course Grant Available</u>	<u>Total Max Support</u>
50% of full time course	£785	£255	£1040
60% of full time course	£945	£255	£1200
75% of full time course	£1180	£255	£1435

Below is a summary of income thresholds, showing the amounts used to calculate the maximum fee/course grants available:

- single student with income less than £16,089.
- student with partner with combined income of less than £19,089.
- if you have dependant children your income threshold will be raised by £2000 for your first child and £1000 for every other dependant child.

Discretionary Funding

Access to Learning Fund

This is public money given by the government to the University of Bolton to distribute to students in severe hardship.

Part-time students are eligible to apply providing you are studying at least 60 credits, and are eligible for the part time course grant. You should seek advice first. Application forms can be obtained from Student Services.

Welfare/State Benefits

What Is The Definition Of A Part-time Course?

The DWP and Job Centre Plus will class your course as part-time if it is officially classed as a part-time course by The University of Bolton. You can study part time as long as you keep to

the rules for 'part-time study', are 'available for work and actively seeking work' and have a valid Jobseekers agreement.

Will My Benefits Be Affected?

Remember you can follow any part-time course without losing benefits if you are:

- Receiving Income Support (not required to sign on).
- Over pension age.
- Receiving Incapacity Benefit (IB) or Severe Disablement Allowance. This is technically a 'safe' benefit as you cannot be treated as capable of work simply because you are studying either a part of full time course, but if you are challenged by the DWP regarding your ability to work, you should seek representation from the Advice Unit immediately.
- Receiving Carer's Allowance. You are allowed to study up to 21 hours in 'supervised study'. If you are challenged by the DWP regarding your study, you should seek representation from the Advice Unit immediately.
- Availability for work and actively seeking work.

Your availability for work should not be affected by your part-time course if your study hours are at times outside 'working hours'. For example, if you attend the University for evening class, this will be ignored if you are looking for daytime work.

You Can Sign On If:

- you sign a Jobseekers Agreement which will clarify the steps that you are undertaking to actively find work,
- you can demonstrate that you are following this agreement,
- you agree that you are willing to work for a minimum of 40 hours per week. If you have mental health or physical problems or caring responsibilities the hours can be reduced,
- you are prepared to give up your course or re-arrange it outside working hours immediately a job comes up.
- You are actively seeking work.

Your part-time course will not be regarded as affecting your availability for work if:

- you can show that you could continue your course, even if you started work by re-arranging your study hours to fit around your job

and

- 3 months before your course started you were claiming JSA, IB, IS (as sick) or on a government training scheme and you keep to your jobseekers agreement.
Or in the 6 months before the course started you had a total of 3 months claiming JSA, IB, IS (as sick) or on a government training scheme and the rest of the time you were unable to claim benefit because you are working full time or earning too much and you keep to the agreement.

If you fit in with these rules then you should not be asked any more questions about your course when you complete the student questionnaire.

The Student Questionnaire

You must inform the Job Centre Plus that you intend to enrol and have enrolled on a part-time course at the University. You will be given a questionnaire to take away and complete. Always get advice before completing the form as the form tests your commitment to the course! If you are too committed and unlikely to abandon your course, then you will not satisfy the 'availability for work and actively seeking work' condition. For example, you may lose JSA if you say you need to complete the course in order to get the job you want, you have paid significant tuition fee costs, etc.

You may also be asked about unsupervised study. You will need to make it clear that the hours do not clash with your Jobseeker Agreement. You may also be asked if you will be allowed to miss lectures or other classes to attend interviews and still complete your course. Speak to your tutor then contact the Advice Unit if you need further practical help on 01204 900850.