

# Course Fees

Detailing Student Contribution, HEA Tuition Fees, and Criteria required for eligibility EU & NON EU Fees, Grants & Schemes with SUSI & Local Authorities.

## STUDENT CONTRIBUTION FEE

### **1. What is the student contribution fee?**

Formerly called the student services charge it covers student services and examinations.

Rate AY 2019/20 = €3,000

### **2. Does the student contribution fee increase each year?**

**Budget 2013:** It was announced that the student contribution will be €3,000 from 2015-2016.

### **3. Is there any tax relief on student contribution payments?**

- The Student Contribution is in principle allowable for tax relief.
- However with effect from 2011 the first €2,000 in qualifying fees per claim will be ineligible for tax relief for students in full-time education. For students in part-time education, the first €1,000 in qualifying fees will be ineligible.
- Families with two or more children who are paying the Student Contribution charge will qualify for tax relief in respect of payments being made for second and subsequent children.
- The upper threshold for tax relief on qualifying fees per programme is €7,000.
- For further details on the tax relief please refer to the Revenue Commissioners.
- Families must deal directly with the Revenue Commissioners on claiming tax relief, not with the University.

### **4. I am a student who, as part of my programme of study is spending time off campus, Do I need to pay fees?**

All students attending Erasmus/Exchange/Cooperative Education programmes must pay fees as normal to the University of Limerick.

## **TUITION FEES**

### **5. What are Tuition Fees and do I qualify for free tuition fees?**

Most undergraduate students attending publicly funded third-level courses do not have to pay tuition fees. Under the terms of the Free Fees Initiative, the Department of Education and Skills pays the fees to the colleges instead.

#### **How to apply:**

There is no separate application for the Free Fees Initiative. Your eligibility will be assessed on the basis of the information you give when applying for a college place.

#### **To qualify for free fees, you must meet criteria with regard to:**

##### **✓ Residence :**

You must have been living in an EEA member state or Switzerland **for at least 3 of the 5 years before starting your course**. The members of the EEA (the European Economic Area) are the member states of the EU, along with Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein.

##### **✓ Nationality and immigration :**

You must also fulfil **one** of the following 6 criteria as regards nationality and immigration status in Ireland: You must

- Be a citizen of an EEA member state (see above) or Switzerland or
- Have official refugee status or
- Be a family member of a refugee and have been granted permission to live in the State or
- Be a family member of an EU national and have permission to live in the State, with a stamp “4EUFAM” on your residence card or
- Have been granted humanitarian leave to remain in the State or have been granted permission to remain in the State by the Minister for Justice and Equality, following a determination by the Minister not to make a deportation order under Section 3 of the Immigration Act 1999.

- ✓ **Course requirements** : You must also fulfil **all** of the following 3 course requirements:
- You must be undertaking a full-time undergraduate course of at least 2 years' duration (or certain shorter courses in institutes of technology).
  - You must be a first-time full-time undergraduate. (However, students who already hold a Level 6 or a Level 7 qualification and are progressing to a Level 8 qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications without having received an exemption from the normal duration of the course may be deemed eligible for free fees.)
  - In general, you must not be repeating the year because of failing your exams or changing course. This requirement may be waived if you repeat a year due to certified serious illness.

**6. I have a degree already which I had to pay fees for in the past, Would I now qualify for HEA free fees now?**

Free tuition fees are only available to people that do not have a degree qualification.

**7. I have recently completed a Level 7 course and now plan to progress my education with starting a Level 8 course in the same discipline. Can I qualify for free fees?**

Education Status Level 6 and level 7 holders progressing on to Level 8 can get free fees if they are doing a course in **the same subject area**.

**CRITERIA REQUIRED FOR ELIGIBILITY EU & NON EU FEES**

**8. If I do not qualify above for the HEA free tuition fees, how to do I know if I qualify for EU fees?**

If you do not qualify for free fees you may still be eligible for EU fee rates.

Some examples of when people might qualify for an EU fee rate are as follows:

- You originally qualified for free fees and are now **repeating a year** that you failed.

- You do not fulfil any of the 6 nationality and immigration status criteria listed above but have been **tax resident** for a number of years in an EEA member state or Switzerland
- **From September 2014**, an Irish, EU, EEA or Swiss student who has spent at least five years in primary school or second level school in Ireland can avail of EU fee rates. Please see the fee schedule for course fees.

### **9. If I do not qualify above for the EU fees, what then?**

If you do not qualify for EU fees you can be charged non-EU fees. Please see the fee schedule for course fees.

### **10. What would Student grants cover?**

Student grants provide financial support to eligible students. There are 2 elements to the student grant - a maintenance grant and a fee grant. A maintenance grant is a contribution towards your living costs. A fee grant can cover:

- All or part of your tuition fees
- All or part of the student contribution
- Costs of essential field trips

### **11. How to I apply for a grant?**

SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland) is the single national Awarding Authority for all new student grant applications. Applications for Student Grants are assessed under the criteria set out in the Student Support Act 2011, Student Support Regulations and the Student Grant Scheme.

Applications are made online and are subject to supporting documentation. The SUSI website is a comprehensive source of information on the student grant scheme and provides a handy step-by-step guide to eligibility and the grants process. The online application system for the 2019/20 academic year is now open.

<http://www.susi.ie/>

### **12. Where can I find further information about funding & grants with tuition fees?**

[www.studentfinance.ie](http://www.studentfinance.ie)

<http://www3.ul.ie/courses/scholarships.shtml>