

SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION 327.178**STUDENTS MAINTENANCE GRANTS
REGULATIONS**

1st October, 2005

LEGAL NOTICE 372 of 2005, as amended by Legal Notice 424 of 2007.

- 1.** The title of these regulations is the Students Maintenance Grants Regulations. Citation.
- 2.** In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires - Interpretation.
- "the Board" means the Students Maintenance Grants Management Board set up in terms of regulation 17;
- "the Minister" means the Minister responsible for education;
- "maintenance grant" means the financial benefits paid to full-time post-secondary, vocational and tertiary students as outlined in the Schedule.
- 3.** (1) Save as provided hereunder, these regulations shall apply to - Applicability.
- (i) full-time students following post-secondary and vocational courses as indicated in Part I of the Schedule;
 - (ii) full-time students following an undergraduate course at the University of Malta as indicated in Part II of the Schedule;
 - (iii) full-time students following any one of the post-graduate degree courses at the University of Malta as may be indicated in Part II of the Schedule.
- (2) Such full-time students as are mentioned in subregulation (1) who continue their course of studies or part of it overseas under schemes approved by the Minister shall continue to be entitled to a student maintenance grant as provided hereunder.

Part I - Eligibility to a Maintenance Grant
by Post-Secondary and Vocational Students

- 4.** (1) A maintenance grant shall be paid to full-time students who are registered and who have been accepted as regular students in a day course of studies by a post-secondary or vocational education and training institution as indicated in Part I of the Schedule, and who - Post-Secondary and Vocational Students.
- (i) are Maltese citizens, or students with at least one parent being a Maltese citizen; and
 - (ii) have resided in Malta for a period of not less than five years from the commencement of the relative course of studies; and
 - (iii) have completed their term of compulsory

education; and

- (iv) are not more than thirty years of age at the commencement of the course; and
- (v) are attending their course regularly and making satisfactory progress:

Provided that such students who are following such a course of studies at the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology who are over thirty years of age at the commencement of the course, and who satisfy the above conditions may, in exceptional cases, qualify for a maintenance grant where the students are the principal breadwinners in a household and the Board deems that they are deserving of a maintenance grant.

Rates of maintenance grant for post-secondary and vocational students

(2) Students who qualify for a maintenance grant under this regulation shall be paid the maintenance grant as prescribed in Part I of the Schedule.

Supplementary grant.

5. Students who qualify for a maintenance grant under regulation 4, and who due to proven hardship are deemed by the Board to qualify for a supplementary maintenance grant, shall receive the prescribed supplementary grant paid in four-weekly rates as indicated in Part I of the Schedule.

Part II - Eligibility to a Maintenance Grant by University of Malta Students

University of Malta students.

6. (1) A maintenance grant shall be paid to full-time students who are registered and who have been accepted as regular students by the University of Malta in a day course of studies as indicated in Part II of the Schedule, and who -

- (i) are Maltese citizens, or students with at least one parent being a Maltese citizen; and
- (ii) have resided in Malta for a period of not less than five years from the commencement of the relative course of studies; and
- (iii) have completed their term of compulsory education; and
- (iv) are not more than thirty years of age at the commencement of the course; and
- (v) are attending their course regularly and making satisfactory progress:

Provided that such students who are over thirty years of age at the commencement of the course and who satisfy the above conditions may, in exceptional cases, qualify for a maintenance grant where the students are the principal breadwinners in a household and the Board deems that they are deserving of a maintenance grant.

Rates of Maintenance Grant for University students

(2) Students who qualify for a maintenance grant under this regulation shall be paid the maintenance grant as prescribed in Part

II of the Schedule.

7. Students who qualify for a maintenance grant under regulation 6, and who due to proven hardship are deemed by the Board to qualify for a supplementary maintenance grant, shall receive the prescribed supplementary grant paid in four-weekly rates as indicated in Part II of the Schedule.

Supplementary grant.

8. The Minister may, in concurrence with the Minister responsible for finance, prescribe in Part II of the Schedule those courses at the University of Malta for which a special maintenance grant may be paid as indicated in the same Schedule.

Special grant.

9. The Minister may, in concurrence with the Minister responsible for finance, prescribe in the Schedule those post-graduate courses at an institution of higher education for which a student maintenance grant may be awarded by the Board on the same terms as provided for in these regulations and in the Schedule.

Post-graduate students.

Part III - General Provisions for Eligibility to a Maintenance Grant

10. (1) Students who are required to repeat a year of their chosen course of studies shall not be entitled to a maintenance grant during the year that they repeat.

Forfeiting of right to grant.

(2) Students whose progress, as assessed through periodical assessment procedures, is deemed to be unsatisfactory, or who are not attending their course regularly, shall forfeit the right to receive the maintenance grant or part thereof until such time as the Head of the educational institution, Institute, or Faculty of the University concerned certifies that such students have resumed satisfactory progress or that they are attending regularly.

11. (1) The fixed four-weekly part of the maintenance grant is paid during the academic year, including the Christmas and Easter recesses, but excluding the Summer recess.

Periods of payment.

(2) Where the structure of particular courses so warrants, the Minister may approve the payment of a maintenance grant during the Summer recess.

12. Students pursuing a second or subsequent course after having completed or partially followed another course at the same level shall not be entitled to receive a maintenance grant for that period of time that is equivalent to the period spent in the previous course if for that previous course they were in receipt of a maintenance grant. Such students shall only be entitled to a maintenance grant for the remaining period of time after termination of the first period without a maintenance grant:

General provision regarding courses at the same level.

Provided that a course progressing from a diploma to a general degree level, or from a general degree to an honours level, or from a degree to a doctorate in Laws or in Medicine and Surgery, shall not be deemed to be a second or subsequent course for the purposes of this regulation.

Maintenance grant in special circumstances.

13. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of these regulations, the Minister may, in special circumstances and after consultation with the Board, order an issue of the maintenance grant according to the Schedule to a student who is not eligible for a grant under these regulations but who is following one of the courses indicated in the Schedule.

(2) In considering the eligibility and merits of an application for a supplementary grant, the Board shall give due consideration to the number of students from the same family who are attending any of the courses for which a student maintenance grant is awarded under these regulations, and shall for such purpose modify the relative means test.

(3) The Board shall also administer a contingency fund made available by the Minister responsible for finance for the consideration of applications for assistance by students facing extraordinary circumstances.

Students on paid study leave or under contract.

14. Students who are following one of the courses indicated in the Schedule whilst they are on paid leave by their employer for the purposes of a course of studies, or who accept an offer to enter into a contract with an employer whereby they bind themselves to work for that employer following the completion of their course, and who would therefore benefit from that pay or the agreed remuneration, will be entitled to that pay or remuneration in lieu of the maintenance grant as provided for in the Schedule.

Students following certificate and diploma courses.

15. Students who follow certificate and diploma courses shall be eligible to that part of the maintenance grant representing the monthly and the annual grant as provided for in Part II of the Schedule.

Transitory provision.

16. (1) Students who joined a course of study on training in a post secondary, vocational educational institution, or University of Malta course prior to the 1st October, 2005, shall continue to be eligible to the maintenance grant as prescribed in the Post-Secondary and Tertiary Students Maintenance Grants Regulations, 1999.

L.N. 165 of 1999.

(2) All other students who joined a course of study or training in a post-secondary, vocational educational institution, or University of Malta on the 1st October, 2005 or thereafter shall be eligible to a maintenance grant as prescribed in the Schedule.

Part IV - Students Maintenance Grants Board

Establishment of Board.

17. There shall be a Students Maintenance Grants Board to manage the allocation of the students maintenance grants and to advise the Minister on policy issues related to these grants.

Composition of Board.

18. (1) The Board shall be appointed by the Minister and shall be composed of:

- (a) a Chairperson;
- (b) a member representing the Education Division;
- (c) a member nominated by the Minister responsible for finance;

- (d) a member nominated by the Employment and Training Corporation;
- (e) a member nominated by the Rector of the University of Malta;
- (f) a member nominated by the Principal of the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology;
- (g) a member nominated by the Kunsill Studenti Universitarji (KSU);
- (h) a member chosen from amongst members of post-secondary and vocational Students' Councils.

(2) The Minister shall also appoint a person to act as Secretary to the Board.

19. The Board shall, with the approval of the Minister, ensure the necessary levels of administrative personnel that will enable it to fulfill its duties effectively and efficiently.

Staffing of the Board.

20. The functions of the Board shall be to:

Functions of the Board.

- (i) manage and monitor the effective allocation and payment of maintenance grants to students;
 - (ii) formulate and regularly review procedures regarding the assessment allocation, payment and entitlements for the receipt of maintenance grants;
 - (iii) establish the criteria and assess, decide and review applications for a supplementary maintenance grant, as prescribed in the Schedule, submitted by students in cases of special financial hardship;
 - (iv) consider reports received from the competent educational authorities regarding the students' academic progress and to apply sanctions when the minimum requirements are not achieved;
 - (v) subcontract services from other entities when it is more cost-effective and efficient for the better management and payment of the students maintenance grants;
 - (vi) monitor retail outlets accepting the students' card to curb and eliminate abuses;
 - (vii) plan and implement in a cost effective manner any students work experience scheme that the Minister may, from time to time, decide to provide;
 - (viii) recommend changes to the national policy on post-secondary, vocational and tertiary education financial support.
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*Substituted by:
L.N. 424 of 2007.*

SCHEDULE

Students Maintenance Grants

Part I - Students in Post- Secondary and Vocational Education Training Courses

Students who, under the terms established in these regulations, have completed a term of compulsory education and are following a full-time day course in an approved Post-Secondary or Vocational Education and Training institution in Malta, other than a SEC/'O' Level Revision Course, qualify for the following maintenance grant for the duration of the course of their studies:

1. A fixed rate of €33.86 per four weeks payable between the 1st of October and the 30th of June.
2. Provided that in the case of students attending courses at the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology, a fixed rate of €33.86 per four weeks is payable between 15 September and 31 July.
3. €32.94 made available every year to partly cover expenses related to educational material and equipment.
4. An additional Supplementary Maintenance Grant of €41.93 every four weeks shall be paid in terms of regulation 5.

For the purpose of this part of the Schedule, the approved Post-Secondary, Vocational Education & Training Institutions are the following:

De La Salle College (Sixth form)
Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School (MATSEC Course)
Junior College, University of Malta
Mikiel Ang Refalo Upper Lyceum Gozo
St Aloysius College (Sixth Form)
Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology

Part II - Students in University of Malta Courses

(A) General Degree Courses

Students who, under the terms established in these regulations, are following a full-time day undergraduate, degree, LL.D. or M.D. course at the University of Malta, including a full-time day degree course offered by the Institute of Conservation and Restoration Studies, qualify for the following maintenance grant for the duration of the course of their studies:

1. Except for students following prescribed courses listed hereunder, a fixed rate of €33.86 every four weeks payable between the 1st October and the 30th of June.
2. A sum of €465.87 per academic year to partly cover expenses related to educational material and equipment.
3. A one-time grant of €465.87.

(B) Certificate and Diploma Courses

Students who, under the terms of these regulations, are following a full-time day certificate or diploma course at the University of Malta, qualify for the following maintenance grant for the duration of the course of their studies:

1. A fixed rate of €33.86 every four weeks between the 1st October and the

30th of June.

2. A sum of €465.87 per academic year to partly cover expenses related to educational material and equipment.

(C) Prescribed Degree Courses

Students who, under the terms established in these regulations, are following a full-time day undergraduate degree course at the University of Malta as prescribed, qualify for the following maintenance grant for the duration of the course of their studies:

1. A fixed rate of €146.75 every four weeks payable between 1st October and the 30th of June.
2. A sum of €698.81 per academic year to partly cover expenses related to educational material and equipment.
3. A one-time grant of €698.81.

The prescribed courses are:

- a. Bachelor of Science (Hons) - Biology
- b. Bachelor of Science (Hons) - Chemistry
- c. Bachelor of Science (Hons) - Mathematics
- d. Bachelor of Science (Hons) - Physics
- e. Bachelor of Science (Hons) - Statistics & Operations Research
- f. Bachelor of Science (Hons) - Computer Science
- g. Bachelor of Science (Hons) - Informatics
- h. Bachelor of Science - Engineering
- i. Bachelor of Science - Information Technology
- j. Bachelor of Science - Business and Computing
- k. Bachelor of Education/PGCE - Biology
- l. Bachelor of Education/PGCE - Chemistry
- m. Bachelor of Education/PGCE - Mathematics
- n. Bachelor of Education/PGCE - Physics
- o. Bachelor of Education/PGCE - Computer Studies.

(D) Supplementary Maintenance Grant

University students who become entitled to a Supplementary Maintenance Grant in terms of regulation 7 shall be paid the following:

- a) Students attending general degree, diploma and certificate courses:
 1. €251.57 every four weeks.
 2. €16.47 per annum.
 3. A one-time grant of €16.47.
- b) Students attending prescribed courses:
 1. €251.57 every four weeks,
- c) Students attending courses leading to a Bachelor of Dental Surgery, a Doctor of Medicine & Surgery, and a Bachelor of Engineering & Architecture:
 1. €251.57 every four weeks.

2. €16.47 per annum.
 3. A one-time grant of €16.47.
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