



Ein cyf/Our ref MA-VH-2463-25

Elin Jones MS
Llywydd
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
CF99 1SN

19 January 2026

Dear Elin

The Education (Student Finance) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2026

In accordance with section 37E(6) of the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019 I am notifying you that this statutory instrument will come into force on 5 February, less than 21 days after it has been laid. A copy of the instrument and the Explanatory Memorandum that accompanies it are attached for your information.

The Education (Student Finance) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2026 (“the Regulations”) will amend:

- the Education (Fees and Awards) (Wales) Regulations 2007;
- the Education (European University Institute) (Wales) Regulations 2014;
- the Higher Education (Qualifying Courses, Qualifying Persons and Supplementary Provision) (Wales) Regulations 2015;
- the Education (Student Support) (Wales) Regulations 2017;
- the Education (Student Support) (Wales) Regulations 2018;
- the Education (Postgraduate Doctoral Degree Loans) (Wales) Regulations 2018; and
- the Education (Student Support) (Postgraduate Master’s Degrees) (Wales) Regulations 2019.

These student support regulations, made under section 22 of the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998, underpin the system of financial support for students ordinarily resident in Wales undertaking courses of higher education.

The Regulations:

- extend eligibility for student support and fee protections for bereaved partners and children of Gurkha and Hong Kong military veterans discharged before 1 July 1997;

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Vikki.Howells@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Vikki.Howells@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

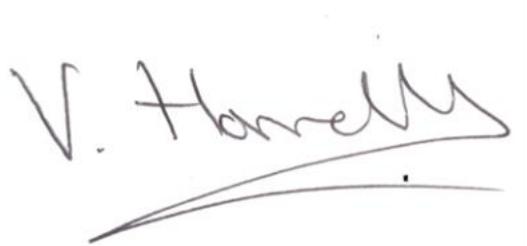
- exclude means tested NHS bursary students and students in their sandwich year from qualifying for the additional weeks loan;
- enable care-experienced students to apply for Grants for Dependents on a non-means tested basis;
- provide for termination provisions within postgraduate regulations for persons who cease to have leave to enter or remain as a protected partner;
- revoke the Education (European University Institute) (Wales) Regulations 2014;
- make additional technical amendments to improve clarity within regulations and/or remove provisions no longer required.

Unfortunately, there was a delay with the registration process. As a result, the Regulations will come into force before the 21-day period has elapsed.

The Regulations apply to an academic year beginning on or after 1 August 2026. The Regulations must be in force by 5 February in order to ensure the Student Loans Company's student application system reflects the latest changes to student support policy ahead of when the application window launches.

I am copying this letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip, Mike Hedges MS, Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, Julian Luke, Director of Senedd Business, Bethan Davies, Head of Chamber and Committee Services, Marc Wyn Jones, Head of Policy and Legislation Committee Service.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Howells', with a long, sweeping underline stroke below it.

Vikki Howells AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Addysg Bellach ac Uwch
Minister for Further and Higher Education