

**To: Each Local Authority/Vocational Education Committee
Higher Education Grants Section/VEC Scholarships Section**

10 December 2009

Re: Budgetary Changes to Rate of Grant effective from 01 January 2010

Dear City Manager/County Secretary, Chief Executive Officer

I wish to bring to your attention the following changes arising from announcements in yesterday's budget:-

- A reduction of 5% is being applied to the rates of student grants. The reduction will be implemented to all existing and new grant holders from January 2010. This is in line with reductions in other income maintenance payments including those for the unemployed.

Please amend the 2nd and 3rd instalments of the grant for the 2009/10 academic year to reflect this decision. If an individual has applied for a grant for 2009/10 but has not yet received their 1st instalment they should be paid at the current rates. **(See Appendix 1 for current and amended rates)**

- People in receipt of the Back to Education Allowance **for all schemes** and the VTOS allowances for those pursuing a PLC course will no longer be eligible for student support grants. However, the cost of the student service charge and any fees payable to colleges will continue to be met by the Exchequer on their behalf. This will apply to all new grant holders in the 2010/2011 academic year onwards.

Yours sincerely,

Lorraine Reilly
Higher Executive Officer
Higher Education – Equity of Access

Appendix 1

CURRENT RATE

Current Rate (Ordinary Maintenance Grant)–1st Instalment 09/10 Academic Year

	Non-Adjacent Rate	Adjacent Rate
Full Maintenance	€3,420	€1,370
Part Maintenance (75%)	€2,565	€1,030
Part Maintenance (50%)	€1,710	€685
Part Maintenance (25%)	€855	€345

Current Rate (Special Rate of Maintenance Grant)–1st Instalment 09/10 Academic Year

Grant	Standard Grant	Special Rate Amount	Total Grant
Non Adjacent Rate	€3,420	€3,270	€6,690
Adjacent Rate	€1,370	€1,310	€2,680

AMENDED RATE

Amended Rate (Ordinary Maintenance Grant)–2nd & 3rd Instalment 09/10 Academic Year

	Non-Adjacent Rate	Adjacent Rate
Full Maintenance	€3,250	€1,300
Part Maintenance (75%)	€2,435	€980
Part Maintenance (50%)	€1,625	€650
Part Maintenance (25%)	€810	€330

Amended Rate (Special Rate of Maintenance Grant)–2nd & 3rd Instalment 09/10 Academic Year

Grant	Standard Grant	Special Rate Amount	Total Grant
Non Adjacent Rate	€3,250	€3,105	€6,355
Adjacent Rate	€1,300	€1,245	€2,545

