

ACCESS TO LEARNING FUND

Extra help for students from colleges and universities

Access to Learning Fund (ALF) - a non-repayable discretionary fund, was introduced in 2004/05 across the higher education sector.

This gives students, facing hardship, extra financial support to access and remain in higher education. More specifically the fund can be used to:

- meet specific course and living costs which are not already met from other sources
- assist if students are in financial hardship
- provide emergency payments for unexpected financial crises
- help students who may be considering giving up their course because of financial problems

There are two basic types of hardship award made from ALF: 'standard' and 'non-standard'.

- Standard awards are those made to help with the general costs of being a student.
- Non-standard awards should be used for students who have to meet exceptional costs such as repairs to essential household equipment and emergency situations.

Students can receive an emergency loan from the Fund, for example, where their first student loan instalment has been delayed beyond the start of term. This should be recovered as soon as the student loan payment is received.

Please see Karen Shaw for further details or an application form.

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