



T: 0300 244 4000  
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Sue Webber MSP  
Convener  
Education, Children and Young People Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Email: ECYP.committee@Parliament.Scot

16 June 2023

Dear Convener,

**SSI 2023/142 The Education (Fees and Student Support) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2023**

At my appearance before the Education, Children and Young People Committee on 7 June, I gave an undertaking to write to you with information regarding the impact of changes to rules concerning students wishing to undertake postgraduate studies in the rest of the UK.

Latest data available showed that in the 2021-21 Academic Year (AY), the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) provided student loan support to 5,285 full-time Postgraduate students, of which 540 were attending a university in another area of the UK. This compares to 3,960 undergraduate students who were given loan support for their studies in the rest of the UK in the same timeframe.

At this time, the exact number of additional students who may benefit from this change is unknown; however, it is expected to be low compared to the overall number who currently receive loan support from the Scottish Government to undertake postgraduate study. SAAS have confirmed that since 2018-19 AY, they have recorded a total of 80 complaints/ appeals from students who have been unable to undertake their postgraduate studies in the rest of the UK due to the previous rule regarding Scottish equivalency.

My officials will monitor uptake in regard to all of the changes that were brought forward by SSI 2023/142.

**GRAEME DEY MSP**

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



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