

# Eligibility Criteria & Guidance

## Notes for Student Grants



Disabled students are those with a recognized and diagnosed disability.

A strict definition of 'disadvantaged' is not possible as each case should be considered on individual merit. However, there are certain groups which may be more likely to need help. These include:

- Students with dependants, especially lone parents
- Students aged 25 and over with extra financial commitments
- Students who were previously in Local Authority Care
- Students estranged from their parents
- Students repeating a year due to reasons beyond their control
- Second, third and final year students who have lost their initial source of funding
- Students who are permanent residents in the UK but are unable to apply for loans to support their studies because of their UK residence status

In essence 'disadvantaged' indicates students who present with circumstances which are considered to be disadvantageous by Trustees, and/or whose circumstances have changed since starting their course and who may not be able to graduate without some financial assistance from the ICE Benevolent Fund.

The scheme is limited to accredited civil engineering courses at UK universities and other UK further education establishments. This does not preclude overseas students who are studying in the UK.

All applicants must have been student members of the ICE for a year or more, unless there are exceptional extenuating circumstances.

Although grants are not normally offered to students in their first year of study it may be possible to consider an application from someone whose circumstances have altered considerably since they commenced the course, or for someone who has to retake the year because of a crisis which could not have been foreseen at the start of the course.

No grant will be made unless the student is in receipt of all other financial assistance which is available. Disabled and disadvantaged students may be eligible for a range of grants (rather

than loans) from the Student Loans Company covering a range of circumstances such as students from poorer backgrounds; allowances for disabled students and grants for students with dependants. Disabled and disadvantaged students are expected to make full use of any grants that are appropriate and available and these will be taken into account in determining any additional grant from the Benevolent Fund.



Students will also be expected to take on part-time and holiday employment unless there is a reason why they cannot do this.

Grants will not normally be offered to those students who:

- have not yet started their university course
- have yet to be offered a university place
- have mismanaged their finances and simply run out of money
- are studying for post-graduate degrees
- are not studying for a civil engineering degree accredited by ICE
- students in their first year of study (unless there are exceptional circumstances)
- do not have funding for their fees in place

Initial grants will be made for one year but applicants can re-apply if they need further help the following year. All applicants will need to get a form signed by their course tutor each term/semester to indicate that they are still attending the course.

Grants from the Ben Fund may be used for living costs, travel, accommodation, equipment costs and course materials. They may not normally be used to pay course or examination fees. They may not be used to clear old debts, indulge in social activities or for the purchase/hire of non-essential equipment and materials.

Applications may be made at any time during the academic year. The first grant will apply to the current term/semester and thereafter grants will be paid at the beginning of the academic year, in January and in April. The maximum grant available will be £1,000 per semester. Lower amounts may be awarded dependant upon circumstances.

Applications must be accompanied by a reference or letter of support from the Head of Department, or their nominee. Applicants will normally be visited by a Benevolent Fund Visitor.

For further information or clarification please contact the Benevolent Fund office, 01444 417 979