



# NASMA Update Session

## Change of Seasonal Intake & Multi Academic Years

Funding Information Services Team  
Student Loans Company

# Change of Seasonal Intake

## Change of seasonal intake

Where a student transfers to a later academic year start date of a course, this is commonly referred to as a '***change of seasonal intake***'.

DfE have confirmed that a **new academic year of funding is not available** for a change of seasonal intake where the student has **remained on the same course**.

This is because a change of seasonal intake does not meet the definition of a 'course transfer' as set out in regulation 7 of the Regulations. In order to qualify as a 'course transfer', the student must transfer from one designated course to another.

For example:

Anthony started a BSc (Hons) Software Engineering in September 2024 (AY start date of 1 September 2024). During term 2, they decide to join the April start intake of the same course (AY start date of 1 April 2025).

*This change of seasonal intake **does not meet the definition of a course transfer**, therefore for student funding purposes Anthony would **remain on the original intake and their payments will continue to align with the September intake**.*

## Course Transfer with a change of seasonal intake

Where a student **transfers with a change of seasonal intake to a different course**, either at the same HE provider or a different HE provider, this **is deemed to be a course transfer** as per regulation 7.

Subject to previous study and Equivalent Level Qualification (ELQ) rules, a student can access a full year of support for the new course in a multi-academic year

For example: Paul starts a BSc (Hons) Chemistry in September 2024 (AY start date of 1 September 2024). During term 1, with the agreement of their HEP, they transfer to the January intake of BSc (Hons) Human Biology (AY start date of 1 January 2025).

*As Paul has **transferred to a new course**, this meets the definition of a course transfer. Paul is permitted to **access full support for the January intake course**, on account of having enough standard entitlement, as well as **retaining the support they were entitled to for their attendance on the original course**.*

## **Change in seasonal intake after suspension / withdrawal (same HEP and course)**

After a period of suspension or a withdrawal, a student may return to the same course at the same HEP but want to change their seasonal intake (e.g. from September to April). When this happens assessment teams consider each situation on a case-by-case basis however, they will follow the general guidance outlined below.

### **After Suspension**

If the student and their HEP decide that they should return to a different seasonal intake (same HEP and course) only their study/attendance with the HEP can change. For student finance purposes we will keep the application details and **payment dates on the original seasonal intake** for the remainder of the course. Students are still entitled to the same level of support, but **payments may not align with the student's new study/attendance dates**.

An exception to this would be a scenario where we couldn't class the student as a returner (e.g. student has suspended for a number of years and therefore abandoned their course). In this case we would require the student to apply as a new student. Therefore, we could allow their application details and payment dates to be on a different seasonal intake, depending on the circumstances.

Change in seasonal intake after suspension / withdrawal (same HEP and course)

## **After a Withdrawal**

When a student returns to study after a withdrawal, we would require them to apply as a **new student**. Therefore, we could allow their application details and **payment dates to be on a different seasonal intake**, depending on the circumstances.

## **New or Returning Students – gap in study of 2 or more years**

If a student has a gap in study of 2 years or more and changes seasonal intake (same HEP and course) we would assume they're '**new**' when they apply. However, we recommend that students speak to their HEP in this situation in case they wish to class them as a returner.

Students classed as 'new' by their HEP need to send us a PN1 and we will align their **payments with the new intake**.

For students who are classed as '**returning**', we need their HEP to send us an electronic CoC to confirm this (the student can send a PR1 if they haven't already applied). **Their attendance can change, but their application details and payments will remain based on their original intake.**

## **New Students - Never Attended**

Students who have never attended or received a payment will be classed as a new student, therefore would be classed as a simple **transfer** - this would not be classed as a change of season intake.

## **New Students - Previously Attended**

Students who have previously attended and then changed seasonal intake on to a new course or at a different HEP this would be considered a **Multi Academic Year Application**.

## **Returning Students**

If students **change seasonal intake on the same course at the same university**, their attendance can change but their application details and **funding must stay based on the original intake for the duration of that course**.

Please be aware that this regulation supersedes any previous study exceptions. Due to the student changing attendance, their HEP should not complete formal registration (and we'll not receive CoR) until closer to the actual course start date. This means that despite the student's payments remaining scheduled for their original intake date, they'll not actually receive their first payment until later.

Some examples of seasonal intakes are shown below;

## **Example 1.**

2023/24 - Newcastle University – Year 3 of 3 – Physics – January start

2022/23 - Newcastle University – Year 2 of 3 – Physics – January start

2021/22 - Newcastle University – Year 1 of 3 – Physics – September start

*The 2022/23 and 2023/24 applications would be assessed as September starters.*

## **Example 2.**

2023/24 - Durham University – Year 2 of 3 – Maths – September start

2021/22 - Durham University – Year 1 of 3 – Maths – January start

*Although there's been a gap in study the student is on the same course. It is the same period of eligibility so 2023/24 should be on a January start.*

## **Example 3.**

2023/24 - Teesside University – Year 2 of 3 – Nursing – January start

2022/23 - Teesside University – Year 1 of 3 – Nursing – September start

*Although the 2022/23 September start course will end before the 2023/24 January version starts the student must remain on the September intake.*





# SFE Multi Academic Year Students

A student can have multiple applications within an academic year when their period of eligibility for the first course has ended and they start a second course within the same academic year. Please see following scenarios:

- Students who withdraw from a course and start another course within the same academic year (including those who change cohort) – This only applies to students who change seasonal intake.
- Students who abandon a course and start another course within the same academic year
- Students who complete a preliminary course and start an End On/Top Up course within the same academic year
- Students who change mode of study (mode switchers)
- Students who change between the Full Time Undergraduate package of support and PG (PGL) within the same academic year

## Identifying Multi Academic Years and Definitions

For an application to be processed as a multi academic year (Multi AY) the student must have started one course and then transferred to a different course or HEP from term 1 with a different seasonal AY start. This is also the case if a student withdraws or suspends from their first course and then transfers/resumes on to a different course with a later seasonal AY start.

The student would be eligible for a full year's support for the new course (depending on previous study), along with the support they were entitled to for their attendance on the first course.

The original course the student attended, before withdrawing or transferring, will be counted as one year of previous study. In future years the Multi Academic year will be counted as 2 years of study.

Where a student completes a course and gains a qualification, then begins on a second course in the same academic year, we can award funding on a multi academic year basis. Previous study and ELQ rules apply.

If they begin the second course before the confirmed end date on their previous course, we would prorate funding to ensure their maintenance loan doesn't overlap with the first course.

**For example:**

2022/23 Year 3/3 – Student continues as a January starter (January 23 - December 23)

2021/22 Year 2/3 – Student transfers onto Year 2 of a Maths course as a January starter (January 22 – December 22)

2021/22 Year 1/3 – Student repeats failed modules, continues as a September start (only in attendance September 21 - December 21)

2020/21 Year 1/3 – Student is on a September start English course (September 20 - June 21)

In this example, 2021/22 would be treated as a Multi AY (Year 1 September – December and Year 2 February - January).

Please see the table below for a full list of different terms associated with multi-application students:

Name	Definition	Example/Additional Information
Concurrent Study Student	Overlapping periods on two or more courses of study	<p>Student commences course in September 2018 and another in January 2019 without our transferring from or withdrawing from original course</p> <p>Students are not entitled to be funded for 2 courses at once, as such the student would be ineligible for funding for the second course.</p>
Mode Switchers	Multi application which occurs where a student moves from a course which is one mode (FT/PT) to a course which is a different mode. This can occur following termination of eligibility, or a transfer	Student commences January 2018, transfers to new course on a different mode of study in April 2018
Multi Academic Year	Occurs when a student transfers from one course to another within the same academic year but has a different seasonal AY start date	Student commences January 2018, transfer to a new course with new AY start of April 2018

Cont. Please see the table below for a full list of different terms associated with multi-application students:

Name	Definition	Example/Additional Information
Multi Cohort	A multi-application that occurs where a student's eligibility terminates on one course, and they begin a new course on a later seasonal AY start date on a new cohort	Student withdraws from a course which started prior to August 2016 in October 2016 and starts a new course in the new AY in January 2017
Multi-Application	Where 2 applications exist for one student in the same AY cycle	Student commences course in September 2018, withdraws and commences new course in October 2018
Period of Eligibility	The period for which an eligible student retains that eligible status	The period of eligibility ends when a student withdraws, abandons or is expelled from a designated course
Same Cohort Multi Application	Occurs where a multi-application happens and there is not a change of cohort	Student commences new course September 2016, withdraws in September 2016 and commences new course in April 2017 - No cohort change

## **Funding**

Students can receive a Tuition Fee Loan, Maintenance Loan and Supplementary Grants appropriate for the period they attended the 1st course, plus a full year of support for their new course depending on any other previous study.

This will count as 2 years of support when calculating the customer's future entitlement to support.

## **Change Seasonal Start for the Same Course**

Students must be transferring onto a different course or HEP on a different seasonal start for us to treat this as a multi academic year. As such students who change seasonal intake for the same course their funding must stay based on the original intake for the duration of that course. Please be aware that this regulation supersedes any previous study exceptions.

Therefore, if a student does a part year repeat and then wishes to progress onto the next year of the same course at the same HEP but on a later seasonal start date, this would not be classed as a multi academic year.

## **Next academic year starting within the same academic year**

We cannot provide funding for two years of a course that start within the same Academic Year (AY).

In practice this means that for a course started in August 2019, the second year of the course cannot start any earlier than August 2020. We cannot provide any funding for courses that start earlier than this, i.e. July 2020.

If a customer needs to repeat part of a year before progressing onto the next year of their course they are unable to progress and receive funding for the next year in the same AY as the repeat study.

## **Change Mode of Study (e.g. Part Time to Full Time)**

If the student is studying Part Time and changes to a Full Time course in the same academic year, they will be eligible to for Part Time funding for the duration of the Part Time study undertaken and then Full time funding for the Full Time study. However, this will be subject to the previous study rule to determine if they will be eligible to receive the support for both periods.



## Applying for Second Course

If the student has withdrawn from their first course and is applying for a new course or new HEP with a different seasonal intake in the same AY, we need the following information;

- Withdrawal COC from the first course
- PN1 form with all required evidence

If the student is transferring from their first course to a new course or HEP with a different seasonal intake in the same AY, we only need the following:

- Suspension COC or other HEP task which confirms the student's last date of attendance on the first course
- Transfer COC for the new course

## Applying for Second Course

In cases where a student completes one course and gains a qualification before applying for a new course or new HEP with a different seasonal intake in the same AY, the following information is required;

### **EXAMPLE:**

Student completes a part year repeat from September 2020 to January 2021, then begins a new course with a January 2021 start date.

- Withdrawal COC from the first course (best option for HEP to confirm the date the course ended and confirm that the student completed the course - it will not be processed as a withdrawal)
- PN1 form (Full Time) / PTMN form (Part Time) for the new course with all required evidence

## Studying More Than One Course

Student Finance can only offer funding for one course per academic year. This would also be the case if a student wanted to study a Full Time course and an Open University course.

However, if a student withdraws from a course and then starts a new course in the same academic year they may be entitled to receive support.

Students could also be eligible to receive support for two Open University courses in the same academic year which have no more than a combined total of 100% study intensity (e.g. one course at 30% and the other at 70%).

These courses **cannot** be funded at the same time, the student must transfer from one course to the next during the AY. Additionally, if the student studies an amount of modules which exceeds the fee cap in the AY then they will be liable to fund the remaining fees themselves.

# WHO IS YOUR REGIONAL FIS ACCOUNT MANAGER?



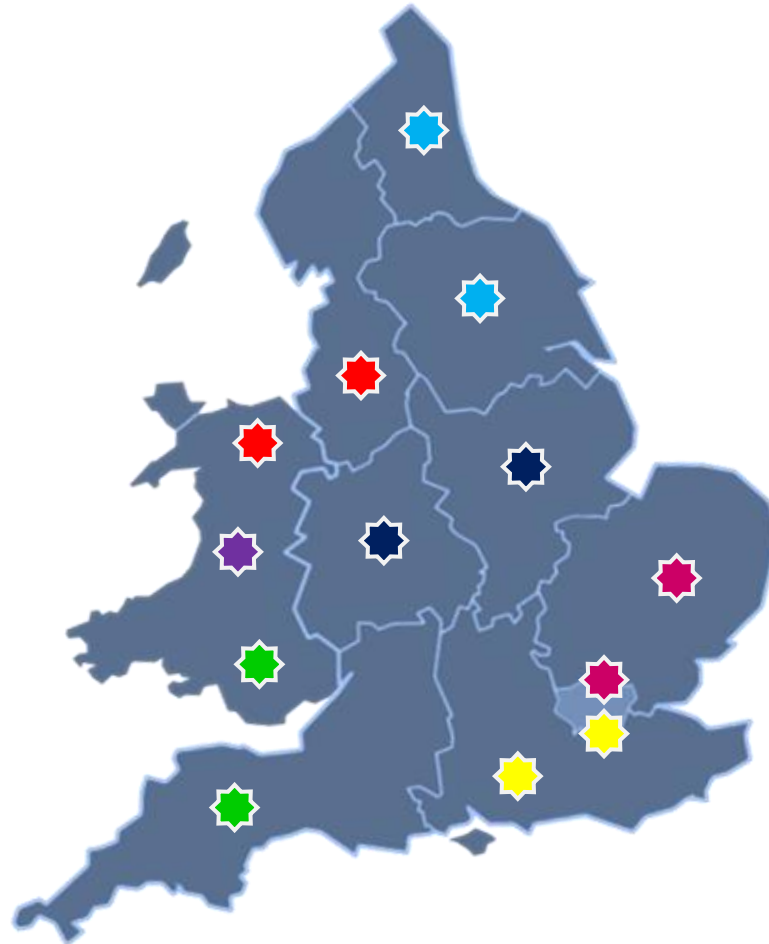
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This now concludes today's session. Many thanks for attending.

If you want to discuss any Student Finance issues, ask questions or arrange a visit, please don't hesitate to contact SLC using the details below.

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