

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE FEE STATUS OF AN APPLICANT

Please note : In order to qualify for the Free Fees Initiative applicants must be (1) first-time undergraduates **and** (2) hold EU nationality or official refugee status and have been ordinarily resident in an EU Member State for at least three of the five years preceding their entry to an approved third level course. Applicants falling under categories (b) or (c) qualify for EU fee rates.

Applicants not satisfying conditions (a), (b) or (c) are liable for non-EU fee rates.

Students classified for fee purposes as non-EU will not be permitted to change their fee status following admission.

(a) FREE FEES SCHEME:

(i) First Undergraduate Degree

AND

(ii) Nationality Test

EU passport

or

Original Irish Birth Certificate

or

Original EU Nationality Identity Card

or

Official Irish Refugee Status (requires the appropriate original letter from the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform indicating that the appropriate status has been granted).

AND

(iii) Residency

Have been ordinarily resident in an EU member state for at least three of the five years preceding their entry to an approved third level course. Applicants should refer to the Department of Education and Science information booklet for details regarding what third level courses are approved, what fees are payable and for specific details regarding the Free Fees Initiative.

(b) EU FEES - NATIONALITY

(i) Nationality Test

EU passport

or

Original Irish Birth Certificate

or

Original EU Nationality Identity Card

or

Official Irish Refugee Status (requires the appropriate original letter from the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform indicating that the appropriate status has been granted).

AND

(ii) Previous Studies Test

Where an applicant has received **ALL** his/her full time post-primary education within the EU, but has not been resident for three of the five years immediately prior to university entry.

(c) EU FEES - RESIDENCY

(i) Residency Test

An applicant's principal residence for the purpose of taxation must have been in a European Union Member State for a minimum of 3 of the 5 years prior to entry to university. Prior residence as a full-time student alone does not qualify a student for EU fee rates.

If an applicant is under 23 years of age on the start date of the course then the principal residence for the purpose of taxation of the parents will be examined. The applicant must also have been resident for the required period.

If an applicant is over 23 years of age on the start date of the course then the principal residence for the purpose of taxation of the applicant is examined.

A P21 form will be required in both instances.

AND

(ii) Previous Work/Studies Test

An applicant must have spent 3 of the last 5 years in full time study or work in an EU member state prior to the commencement of the course. Students classified for fee purposes as non-EU will not be permitted to change their fee status following admission.

This full time study/work requirement will be deemed satisfied in the case of an applicant for whom a spouse is claiming a tax benefit, which must be confirmed by a P21 form or evidence of social welfare benefits.
