

**Student Grant Recipients from a First Year Full-Time Undergraduate
New Entrant Cohort for the Academic Year 2013/14 in HEA Funded
Institutions**

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1. Introduction

This study examines the student grant status of a cohort of 1st year full-time undergraduate new entrants to HEA funded higher education institutions. The analysis is based on a collaboration between SUSI and the HEA which links student grant data to information available in the HEA Student Record System (SRS) for the academic year 2013/14. The analysis examines those students for the outlined cohort by category of grant received and also looks at the proportions of new entrants by institute who were in receipt of a student grant by grant category. The analysis also examines the proportion of new entrants by county of origin that were in receipt of a student grant.

Key points for the 2013/14 first year full-time undergraduate new entrant cohort for HEA funded institutions:

- 46% of new entrants across all HEA funded institutions are in receipt of a student grant.
- 56% of new entrants in institutes of technology are in receipt of a grant compared to 36% in universities and 41% in other colleges.
- Across all HEA funded institutions 42% of new entrants are in receipt of full fees and various rates of maintenance. This varies from 52% in the institutes of technology, 32% in the universities and 36% in the other colleges.
- Of the 42% in receipt of full fees and various rates of maintenance, 20% of new entrants are in receipt of full fees and full maintenance and 12% a special rate of maintenance and full fees.
- 40% of new entrants in institutes of technology are in receipt of a full fees and either full or special rate of maintenance compared to 26% in the universities and 30% in other colleges.
- The highest proportion of new entrants in receipt of a grant (71%) is in Letterkenny Institute of Technology compared to the lowest at 24% in Trinity College Dublin.
- 67% of new entrants from Donegal are in receipt of a grant compared to just 35% from Dublin.

2. Background

In 2014 as two bodies listed under Schedule 2 and permitted under section 28 of the Student Support Act 2011, HEA and SUSI (as a business unit of the CTEB) signed a Memorandum of Agreement to exchange and process data. SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland) is the single national Awarding Authority for all new student grant applications. Applications for Student Grants are assessed under the criteria set out in the Student Support Act 2011, Student Support Regulations and the Student Grant Scheme.

SUSI provided to the HEA data comprising the Grant Rate Type and date of birth of student grant applicants in the 2013-14 academic year.

Although the SRS currently holds data on whether or not a student is in receipt of a grant it does not have any information on the category of grant awarded. The sharing of this data will become a significant source of data for the HEA, in particular in the area of equity of access to higher education. It will also provide an extra layer of quantitative data on progression and completion analysis.

The first set of matched data is based on the 2013/14 recipients of a SUSI grant. The data was matched to the 2013/14 enrolment data in the SRS.

3. Student Grant Application Process and Grant Categories

SUSI provides student grants to undergraduate students attending higher education institutions from years 1-4 as well as postgraduate students attending higher education institutions. SUSI also provides student grants to students attending Post Leaving Certificate courses and to Irish students studying abroad.

There are 7 main categories of student grant awarded. Of these categories six award the student full tuition fees but vary in the amount of maintenance assistance that is awarded directly to the student from 0% to 100%. There is also a special rate of maintenance that offers a top up rate to the 100% maintenance category. There are also two final categories of student grant which are 50% tuition fees or 100% student contribution and 50% student contribution.

Table 1 shows the income thresholds for undergraduate students in the academic year 2013/14.

Table 1: Income Thresholds for Grant Eligibility for Undergraduate Students 2013/14	
Full Maintenance Grant and Full Fees	€39,875 - €47,575
75% Maintenance Grant and Full Fees	€40,970 - €48,890
50% Maintenance Grant and Full Fees	€43,380 - €51,760
25% Maintenance Grant and Full Fees	€45,790 - €54,630
Special Rate of Maintenance and Full Fees	€22,703
50% Tuition Fees and 100% Student Contribution	€49,840 - €59,455
50% Student Contribution	€54,240 - €64,700

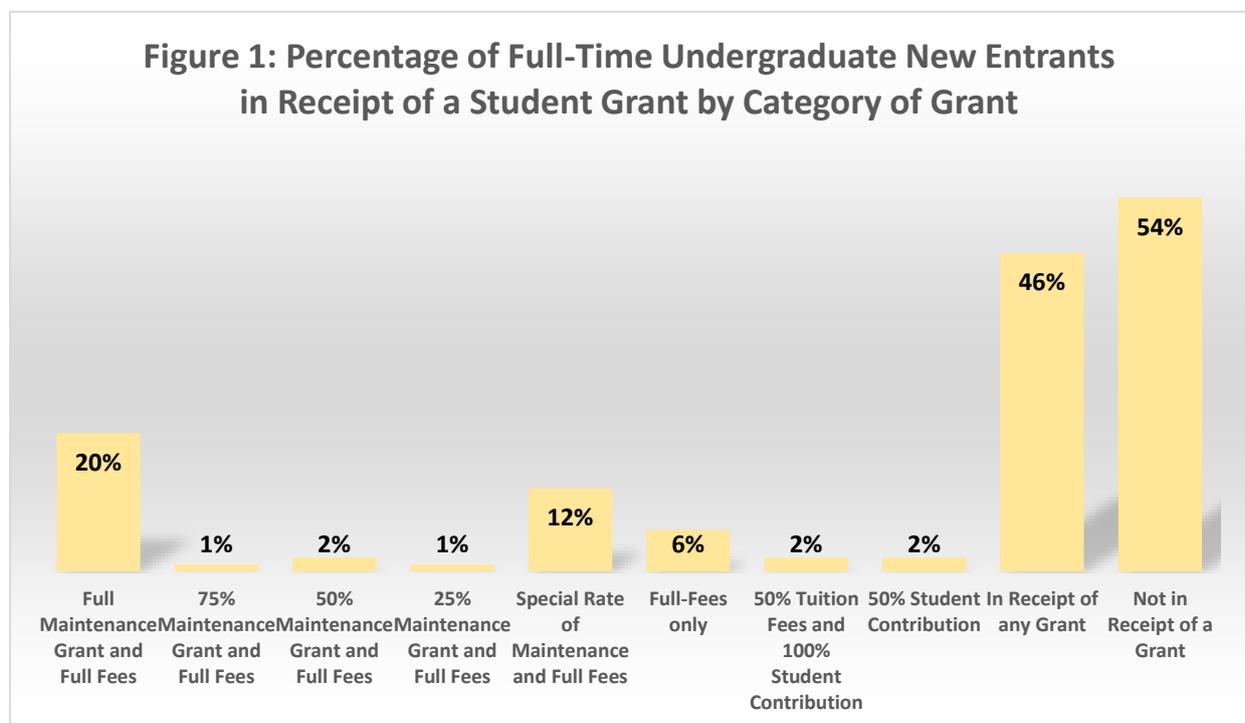
4. Study Cohort

This study examines the student grant data for a sub-set of all students in receipt of a student grant in the academic year 2013/14. The analysed cohort consists of those students that are new entrants to higher education entering in the 1st year of their course in the academic year 2013/14 at undergraduate level in the publicly-funded institutions outlined in Appendix 1. The cohort analysed therefore excludes students in receipt of a grant attending postgraduate courses, PLC courses, and undergraduates from years 2-4, Irish students studying abroad as well as undergraduate new entrants from higher education institutions not included in Appendix 1. The data will include for the cohort outlined the two categories of student eligible to apply for the student grant i.e. Dependent/Mature dependent and Independent.

It is important to note that the analysis in the report from Section 4 is based on 1st year full-time undergraduate new entrants to higher education institutions outlined in Appendix 1 for the academic year 2013/14 only.

5. Full-time undergraduate 1st year new entrant student grant recipients from a selection of publicly-funded higher education institutions in the academic year 2013/14

Figure 1 outlines the percentage of all full-time 1st year undergraduate new entrants for the academic year 2013/14 in receipt of a student grant by category of grant. The data shows that overall 46% of all new entrants were in receipt of a grant in that academic year.



The data shows that 42% were in receipt of full fees accompanied by varying levels of maintenance awarded to the student. Of the cohort in receipt of a student grant 12% were in receipt of the full-fees and the special rate of maintenance and 20% were in receipt of full-fees and full maintenance.

Table 2 outlines the percentage of all full-time undergraduate first year new entrants in 2013/14 in receipt of a student grant by category of grant and higher education sector.

Table 2: Percentage of Full-Time Undergraduate New Entrants in Receipt of a Grant by Grant Category and Sector, 2013/14				
	Institutes of Technology	Universities	Other Colleges	All
Full Maintenance Grant and Full Fees	23%	18%	21%	20%
75% Maintenance Grant and Full Fees	1%	1%	1%	1%
50% Maintenance Grant and Full Fees	2%	1%	1%	2%
25% Maintenance Grant and Full Fees	1%	1%	2%	1%
Special Rate of Maintenance and Full Fees	15%	8%	9%	12%
Full Fees Only	10%	3%	2%	6%
<i>Proportion in receipt of Full-Fees</i>	52%	32%	36%	42%
50% Tuition Fees and 100% Student Contribution	2%	2%	2%	2%
50% Student Contribution	2%	2%	2%	2%
<i>Proportion in receipt of a student Grant</i>	56%	36%	41%	46%

New entrants to the institutes of technology have the highest proportion of student grants at 56% compared to 36% in the universities and 41% in the other colleges. The proportions in receipt of full-fees with varying levels of maintenance awarded to the student ranges from 52% in the institutes of technology, 32% in the universities and 36% in the other colleges. Almost 40% of institute of technology new entrants are in receipt of either a full fees and full maintenance grant or full fees and special rate of maintenance grant compared to 26% of university new entrants and 30% of other college new entrants.

Table 3 shows the proportion of 1st year full-time undergraduate new entrants in receipt of a student grant by institute and the proportions of those in receipt of a student grant receiving full fees. The table shows that within the institute of technology sector the rates vary from 41% at the Institute of Art, Design and Technology to 71% at Letterkenny Institute of Technology. In the university sector the rates vary from 24% in Trinity College Dublin to 49% at Maynooth University and from 36% in St. Patricks College Drumcondra to 64% in Mater Dei Institute of Education in the other colleges sector.

Table 3: Percentage of 1st year full-time undergraduate new entrants in receipt of a student grant by institute and the proportion of those in receipt of full fees, 2013/14

Institute	% in receipt of a student grant	% of those in receipt of a student grant that are in receipt of full fees
Athlone Institute of Technology	58%	96%
Institute of Technology Blanchardstown	61%	94%
Institute of Technology Carlow	62%	94%
Cork Institute of Technology	53%	90%
Dublin Institute of Technology	42%	93%
Dundalk Institute of Technology	58%	93%
Institute of Art Design and Technology	41%	89%
Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology	60%	95%
Limerick Institute of Technology	62%	94%
Letterkenny Institute of Technology	71%	95%
Institute of Technology Sligo	64%	94%
Institute of Technology Tallaght	57%	90%
Institute of Technology Tralee	54%	93%
Waterford Institute of Technology	58%	95%
Total Institute of Technology	56%	92%
Dublin City University	36%	89%
University College Cork	34%	89%
University College Dublin	28%	90%
National University of Ireland Galway	46%	90%
Maynooth University	49%	91%
University of Limerick	48%	90%
Trinity College Dublin	24%	89%
Total Universities	36%	90%
St. Patricks College Drumcondra	36%	90%
Mary Immaculate College Limerick	43%	85%
Mater Dei Institute of Education	64%	91%
St. Angelas College Sligo	46%	87%
National College of Art and Design	41%	93%
Total Other Colleges	41%	88%

Further analysis of the data at institute level shows that for all institutes, students in receipt of a grant are almost all in receipt of full-fees with varying levels of maintenance. This ranges from 92% in

the institutes of technology, 90% in the universities and 88% in the other colleges. Further analysis outlined in Table 4 shows that for those in receipt of a student grant over 70% are in receipt of full fees with either full maintenance or the special rate of maintenance awarded to the student.

Table 4 shows the percentage of grant recipients in receipt of the full fees and either full maintenance or the special rate of maintenance by sector. The table shows that 69% of institute of technology new entrants are in receipt of top rates of grant. This increases to 72% for the universities and other colleges, even though as noted earlier, lower proportions of new entrants from these sectors are in receipt of a grant.

Table 4: Percentage of Full-Time Undergraduate New Entrant Grant Recipients in Receipt of the Top Rates of Grant by Sector, 2013/14			
Grant Category	Institutes of Technology	Universities	Other Colleges
Special Rate of Maintenance and Full Fees	27%	23%	22%
Full Maintenance Grant and Full Fees	41%	49%	50%
% of Grant Holders in Receipt of Top Rates of Grant	69%	72%	72%

Table 5 shows the proportion of full-time undergraduate new entrants in receipt of a student grant by county.

Table 5: Proportion of Full-time undergraduate new entrants in receipt of a student grant by county of origin	
Donegal	67%
Monaghan	63%
Cavan	61%
Leitrim	61%
Carlow	59%
Offaly	58%
Wexford	58%
Roscommon	58%
Longford	56%
Louth	52%
Mayo	56%
Kerry	54%
Westmeath	54%
Waterford	52%
Kilkenny	52%
Laois	52%
Galway	52%
Limerick	50%
Sligo	51%
Clare	50%
Tipperary	49%
Meath	46%
Cork	44%
Wicklow	44%
Kildare	42%
Dublin	35%
Unknown Ireland	3%
Total	46%

Of all full-time undergraduate new entrants entering 1st year of higher education, those from Donegal had the highest proportion of new entrants in receipt of a grant, at 67%. This correlates with the grant data by institute which showed that new entrants to Letterkenny Institute of Technology have the highest proportion of new entrants with at grant, at 71%. Moreover, previous research has shown that

over 70% of students attending LYIT are from county Donegal¹. Donegal is closely followed by Monaghan at 63%, Cavan at 61%, Leitrim at 61% and Carlow at 59%.

¹ Higher Education System Performance First Report 2014-2016, Volume II, Higher Education Authority, May 2014.

Table 6 outlines the proportions of full-time undergraduate new entrants in receipt of full-fees with either 100% or the special rate of maintenance grant by county of origin. The data shows that again Donegal, Cavan, Monaghan and Leitrim are the top four counties in receipt of such grants. In Donegal 50% of new entrants are in receipt of the top rates of grant i.e. full fees and full maintenance or the special rate of maintenance and full fees.

Counties showing low grant rates are mainly in urban and suburban areas for both overall grant eligibility and eligibility of full-fee with either 100% or the special rate of maintenance grant. This finding warrants some further analysis.

Table 6: Percentage of 1st year Full-Time Undergraduate New Entrant Grant Recipients in Receipt of the Full Fees and Full-Fees and either Full or Special rate of Maintenance by County Origin, 2013/14

County of origin of cohort	% of grant recipients in receipt of full fees	% of grant recipients in receipt of full-fees and either full or special rate of maintenance
Donegal	63%	50%
Cavan	57%	47%
Monaghan	57%	45%
Leitrim	57%	44%
Wexford	55%	44%
Longford	52%	41%
Mayo	51%	41%
Offaly	55%	41%
Roscommon	52%	41%
Westmeath	50%	40%
Kerry	51%	39%
Laois	48%	39%
Kilkenny	48%	37%
Carlow	53%	36%
Galway	48%	36%
Clare	45%	35%
Tipperary	45%	35%
Louth	47%	35%
Limerick	46%	34%
Waterford	48%	34%
Meath	42%	33%
Sligo	47%	33%
Wicklow	39%	32%
Cork	40%	31%
Kildare	37%	27%
Dublin	32%	24%
Unknown Ireland	2%	1%
Total	42%	32%

Appendix 1: Higher Education Institutions in the cohort analysed

Institutes of Technology
Athlone Institute of Technology
Institute of Technology Blanchardstown
Institute of Technology Carlow
Cork Institute of Technology
Dublin Institute of Technology
Dundalk Institute of Technology
Institute of Art Design and Technology
Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology
Limerick Institute of Technology
Letterkenny Institute of Technology
Institute of Technology Sligo
Institute of Technology Tallaght
Institute of Technology Tralee
Waterford Institute of Technology
Universities
Dublin City University
University College Cork
University College Dublin
National University of Ireland Galway
Maynooth University
University of Limerick
Trinity College Dublin
Other Colleges
St. Patricks College Drumcondra
Mary Immaculate College Limerick
Mater Dei Institute of Education
St. Angela's College Sligo
National College of Art and Design