

Home/EU Postgraduate Taught students Important Information Key Changes for 2015/16

Introduction:

Postgraduate Taught tuition fees are set to rise for **new** students in Academic year 2015/16 by a larger than inflationary increase. However, this increase in the cost of tuition fees **will not** apply to the majority of our existing postgraduate taught students, as the majority of these students will only have an inflationary uplift to fees.

These notes have been written for MMU existing students who are returning to study in Academic Year 2015/16 and later years, to explain the potential financial impact (if any) of the new tuition fee regime. An existing student is classed as a student who commenced their course of study at MMU **before** the 1st September 2015.

These notes cover different topics so please read the full document.

From Academic year **2015/16** and onwards, MMU has introduced **new rules and restrictions** on the length of time a student can remain on their current fee regime. This means that any period of suspension, repeat of studies or intercalation **before the 2015/16 academic session** will **not** be taken into account when applying the new restrictions.

In brief: An existing student will remain on their current fee regime as long as they remain on their existing course and complete their course in the normal timeframe. If necessary, MMU will permit a student **one** additional or repeat year on their current fee regime in which to complete their studies.

Frequently Asked Questions

The following section provides answers to some common questions about how the new rules and restrictions will be applied in particular scenarios. This section includes information on the following:

- **Suspension**
- **Withdrawal**
- **Repeating a period of study**
- **Intercalating**
- **Course transfers**
- **Changes in study mode**
- **Course Progressions**

If your particular circumstances are not covered in these notes, or you simply require more detailed information, please send your query, including full name and MMU ID number to the Student Billings Team at tuitionfeeng@mmu.ac.uk or telephone 0161 247 2937 (weekdays 8:45am – 4:30pm).

You can also contact the Advice Centre at the Students' Union for independent advice about tuition fees and funding issues at <http://www.mmunion.co.uk/advice/speaktoadvisor/>

Suspension:

Q: What is the definition of suspension?

A: A suspension is a break in study for a period of up to 12 months duration, but where you **intend to return to the same course at MMU**. All requests to suspend **must be approved** in writing by your Head of Department.

Q: I was a new student in 2014/15 and suspended/deferred within the first two weeks of the start of the course. Will I be on the new fee regime when I return to MMU in 2015/16?

A: Provided you return to the same course on the agreed date in the 2015/16 academic year, you will remain on the existing fee structure providing you then complete the course in a timely manner. 2015/16 will be classed as your additional year.

Q: I was an existing/returning MMU student in 2014/15 and suspended within the first two weeks of the start of the course. Will I be on the new fee regime when I return to MMU in 2015/16?

A: Provided you return to the same course on the agreed date in the 2015/16 academic year, you will remain on the existing fee structure providing you then complete the course in a timely manner. 2015/16 will be classed as your additional year.

Q: What if I do not return from suspension in 2015/16?

A: If you do not return to MMU in the 2015/16 academic year, or you do not return to the same course you will be charged fees as per the fees list which may be the higher rate of fees on your return.

Q: What if I return from suspension in 2015/16 and change my course?

A: You will be charged fees as per the fees list, which in some cases may be the higher fee.

Q: What if I come back in 2015/16 at an earlier date than I originally suspended, will I have to pay the higher rate of fees?

A: No 2015/16 will be classed as your additional year providing you are returning to the same course. However additional fees may be charged depending on a) the point you suspended in 2014/15, b) the date you return to MMU in 2015/16, and c) if applicable the reason for an early return. Please contact the Student Billings Team if you think this may apply to you.

Q: I suspended in the 2013/14 academic year and will be returning in 2015/16. What fees will I be charged on my return?

A: Your tuition fees will be based on your existing fees. However, you will now be expected to complete the course in a timely manner. 2015/16 will be classed as your additional year.

Q: I suspended in the 2014/15 academic year and will be returning in 2015/16. What fees will I be charged on my return.

A: Your tuition fees will be based on your existing fees. However you will now be expected to complete the course in a timely manner. 2015/16 will be classed as your additional year.

Q: What will the fee implications be if I have to suspend my studies during the 2015/16 academic year?

A: If you are considering suspending your studies in 2015/16, we would advise you to discuss this with the Student Billings Team first, as higher fees will be charged when you return from your period of suspension if you have already used your additional year or have changed courses/study mode.

Withdrawal:

Q: What is the definition of withdrawal?

A: Withdrawal is defined as leaving a course of study at MMU with no intention to return to the same course (if you do intend to return to the same course this would be classed as a suspension). If you leave one course part way through an academic year, even if you intend to commence a different course at MMU later, you are still classed as withdrawn from the university. Higher fees will be charged if you reapplied to rejoin your course, and you will also need to submit a new application. Please contact the Course Enquiries Team on 0161 247 6969 or email courses@mmu.ac.uk

Q: I withdrew in the 2014/15 academic year. Will I be on the new fee regime if I decide to return to MMU?

A: Yes, you **will be liable for the new higher fee regime** if you decide to return to MMU later. You will also need to submit a new application. Please contact the Course Enquiries Team on 0161 247 6969 or email courses@mmu.ac.uk

Q: I withdrew in the 2013/14 academic year. Will I be on the new fee regime if I decide to return to MMU?

A: Yes, you **will be liable for the new higher fee regime** if you decide to return to MMU later. You will also need to submit a new application. Please contact the Course Enquiries Team on 0161 247 6969 or email courses@mmu.ac.uk

Q: I am an existing student and thinking about withdrawing in the 2014/15 academic year. Will I be on the new fee regime if I decide to return to MMU?

A: Yes, you **will be liable for the new higher fee regime** if you return to MMU later. You will also need to submit a new application. Please contact the Course Enquiries Team on 0161 247 6969 or email courses@mmu.ac.uk

Repeating a period of study:

Q: What do you mean by repeating study?

A: If you do not successfully pass certain units/modules in your academic year, MMU may allow you to return to MMU the following academic year to re-sit exams and/or resubmit work. Depending on the decision by the exam board you will either be repeating **with** or **without** attendance.

Q: I am repeating two units without attendance in 2014/15. Have I already used up my additional year?

A: No, MMU will not count this as your additional year. 2015/16 will be classed as your additional year.

Q: I am repeating two units with attendance in 2015/16. Have I already used up my additional year?

A: 2015/16 will be classed as your additional year.

Intercalating:

Q: What do you mean by intercalating?

A: Intercalating means, you have an agreement with MMU, from the start of the academic year, to take a full academic year out from your course (you are suspending your studies for the full academic year).

Q: I was intercalating in 2014/15. Have I already used up my additional year?

A: No, MMU will not count this as your additional year. However, you will be expected to return in 2015/16. 2015/16 will be classed as your additional year.

Q: I was intercalating in 2014/15 and due to mitigating circumstances will not be able to resume my studies in 2015/16 what do I need to do?

A: We would advise you to contact your Programme Team as soon as possible. Students are only permitted to intercalate their studies for one year. Any further years need to be approved by the Dean of Faculty. If you do not return in 2015/16 you be charged fees as per the fees list, which in some cases may be the higher fee.

Q: I started my course in 2014/15 and have approval to intercalate in 2015/16. What fees will I be charged and have I use up my additional year?

A: Existing fees will apply providing you return in 2016/17. 2016/17 will be classed as your additional year.

Added 16.4.15

Course transfers:

Q: I would like to transfer to another course in 2015/16 will I be on the new fee regime?

A: You can only remain on your existing fee regime if you remain on the same course. If you do decide to transfer courses you will be charged fees as per the fees list, which in some cases may be the higher fee.

Change in study mode:

Q: I am currently a full time student, but I would like to complete my final year by transferring to the part-time route. Will I be on the new fee regime?

A: Yes, if you change your course study mode in 2015/16 or later years from a full time course code to a part time course code (or vice versa), you will be charged fees as per the fees list, which in some cases may be the higher fee.

Course Progressions:

Q: When I started on my PG Dip course in 2014/15 it was on the understanding that I could have the option of progressing onto a MA course. If I do decide to start the MA course in 2015/16 what fees will I be charged?

A: Programme Teams will identify students who will be progressing onto a further postgraduate taught course in 2015/16. Existing fees will be charged if the progression is immediately after completing your PG Dip course. 2015/16 will be classed as your additional year.

Q: When I started on my PG cert course it was on the understanding that I could have the option of progressing on a higher level PGT course (PG Dip or MA).If I do decide to start a further PGT course in 2015/16 what fees will I be charged?

A: Programme Teams will identify students who will be progressing onto a further postgraduate taught course in 2015/16. Existing fees will be charged if the progression is immediately after completing your initial PGT course. 2015/16 will be classed as your additional year.
