

Educational Grants Act

2003 No 79, 26 March

Entry into force 1 July 2003 Amended by Act No 108/2011 (entry into force 17 September 2011).

*Any reference in this Act to “the Minister” or “the Ministry” not accompanied by express mention of or reference to a specific field of responsibility shall be understood as being a reference to the **Minister of Education, Science and Culture** or to the **Ministry of Education, Science and Culture** as responsible for the implementation of this Act.*

Article 1 The Treasury shall award educational grants for the purpose of reducing the financial inequalities existing between students enrolled in upper secondary schools [and higher education institutions]⁽¹⁾ to the extent that they have unequal financial burdens as a consequence of their region of residence or suffer from a lack of means that makes it difficult for them to pursue their studies.

⁽¹⁾Act No 108/2011, Article 1.

Article 2 The right to be awarded grants pursuant to this Act shall be restricted to students who:

1. are either Icelandic citizens or foreign citizens entitled to educational grants under an agreement between the Icelandic government and other countries;
2. [pursue regular studies either at an Icelandic upper secondary school or at the upper secondary level in another country, provided that the student does not have the possibility to pursue comparable studies while remaining at her/his legal residence or other equivalent place of living in Iceland];⁽¹⁾

[3. are still under the age of 18 and pursue regular higher education studies in Iceland aiming at a formal completion of studies in an academic discipline accredited by the Minister pursuant to the Higher Education Act];⁽¹⁾

[4.]⁽¹⁾ either suffer from a lack of means that makes it difficult for them to pursue their studies or must live away from their families because of the studies, provided that the student does not have the possibility to pursue comparable studies while remaining at her/his legal residence or other equivalent place of living.

Article 2 The right to be awarded a grant shall not extend to those who are entitled to student loans from the Icelandic Student Loan Fund or who receive similar financial support.

⁽¹⁾Act No 108/2011, Article 2.

Article 3 For the purposes of this Act, the term educational grants shall cover the following:

1. Subsistence grants, composed of grants to cover travel costs, food costs and accommodation costs. Subsistence grants shall be awarded on the condition that the studies make it necessary for the student to take up lodgings at a distance of at least 30 km from her/his place of legal residence and away from her/his family. However, subsistence grants may be awarded even if this distance is smaller than 30 km, provided that transport to and from the school presents particular difficulty to the student for reasons including weather conditions, poor roads, or a lack of public transport.

2. School transport grants. School transport grants shall be awarded on the condition that the student is obliged to attend school away from her/his family and is not entitled to a subsistence grant.

3. Special grants which the Educational Grants Committee may award to students with limited financial means.

Article 4 The amounts of grants awarded pursuant to this Act shall be fixed annually with reference to the total amount allocated to educational grants in the annual Budget Act.

Article 5 The [Minister]⁽¹⁾ shall appoint [three]⁽¹⁾ members to an Educational Grants Committee which shall be responsible for the award of educational grants. The Educational Grants Committee shall be composed of two members appointed without nomination, one of which shall be named Chair,⁽¹⁾ and one member nominated by the Association of Local Authorities in Iceland. All committee members shall be appointed for a four-year term.⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 108/2011, Article 3.

Article 6 The Educational Grants Committee shall submit to the [Minister]⁽¹⁾ proposals on annual budget appropriations in line with the objective of this Act, based on data regarding students' travel, food and accommodation costs, their school transport expenses, as well as other information as appropriate in each case. The Committee's proposals shall outline the allocation of budget appropriations between the different types of grant.

The Educational Grants Committee shall publish separate calls for applications for grants for the autumn and spring terms, and award grants after the expiry of the application deadline. Educational grants shall be paid in two instalments, one for the autumn term and one for the spring term. Grants shall be awarded subject to the school concerned having confirmed the applicant's assiduity and academic results at the end of the autumn term and at the end of the spring term, respectively.

⁽¹⁾Act No 108/2011, Article 4.

Article 7 Where a student contests the decision of the Educational Grants Committee, the Committee shall reexamine the student's case. Comments contesting a decision by the Educational Grants Committee must be in writing and must be received by the Committee within 30 days of the notification of the decision to the student. The Committee shall reach a decision within 30 days of completing the data collection.

Where a student applies for a grant because of insufficient financial means, the Educational Grants Committee may obtain the necessary information on the financial situation of the student and her/his parents from tax authorities and other public entities.

Article 8 The [Minister]⁽¹⁾ shall issue a Regulation⁽²⁾ containing further provisions on the implementation of this Act. The Regulation shall stipulate application deadlines, the form and content of the documents on which the award of grants will be based, the arrangements for the payment of grants, the information to be provided by the applicant in relation to a grant application, and any other rules further pertaining to the implementation of this Act.

⁽¹⁾Act No 108/2011, Article 4. ⁽²⁾Regulation 692/2003, cf. Regulations 760/2004, 829/2006, 532/2007, 903/2007, 922/2007, 644/2010 and 28/2011.

Article 9 This Act shall enter into force on 1 July 2003. ...

Disclaimer: This is an English translation. The original Icelandic text, as published in the Law Gazette (Stjórnartíðindi) is the authoritative text. Should there be discrepancy between this translation and the authoritative text, the latter prevails.