

STIPENDIEN

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SERVICE

# Financial Aid for Students in Austria

Information Brochure  
by the Austrian  
Study Grant Authority

studien  
beihilfen  
behörde

[www.stipendium.at](http://www.stipendium.at)

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Student Support Act (German: “*Studienförderungsgesetz*“) 1992, Federal Gazette BGBl. No. 305/1992, as per federal acts BGBl. No. 343/1993, No. 29/1994, No. 619/1994, No. 513/1995, No. 201/1996, No. 377/1996, BGBl. I No. 98/1997, I No. 30/1998, I No. 39/1998, I No. 71/1998, I No. 23/1999, I No. 76/2000, I No. 142/2000, I No. 75/2003, I No. 11/2005, I No.20/2006, I. No. 46/2007, I. No. 2/2008, I No. 47/2008 and I No. 134/2008.

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## INTRODUCTION

The legal parameters covering student support, as stipulated in the Student Support Act of 1992 and enacted in numerable ordinances relating to this act, are a very special legal matter with three specifically remarkable aspects:

1. The large group of students for whom a study grant, in addition to financial support payments, constitutes a considerable part of the financial resources required for their studies.
2. The function of the Student Support Act within the framework of the Austrian legal system, which is being increasingly harmonized with other social policy legislation (family allowances, social insurance), and which thus reaches beyond the immediate scope of financial aid for students. This is why the Student Support Act assumes a key role among pertinent social policy legislation for students.
3. The law on student support as a test case for public transfer payments -- a perspective which generates basic reflections on student aid.

The present paper on the legal parameters covering student support first addresses the federal programs which are in place for the financing of university studies. Subsequently, it outlines the specific regulations of the Student Support Act of 1992.

## **Federal Aid for Students**

The federal aid for students in Austria was introduced in the 60s as an accompanying measurement towards the opening of the universities to also make it possible for children from low-income families to start an academic career. Since 1992 the study financing has been more and more linked to the other (indirect) federal aid measures and the conditions of entitlement have been harmonised step by step.

The federal aid measures of Austrian study financing can systematically be divided into two sections: transfer payments, which students receive directly in cash (*direct study financing*), and expenses which the student benefits from either by transfer payments to the students' parents or non-cash benefits (*indirect study financing*).

<b>Federal aid for students</b>	
<b>Indirect federal aid for students</b>	<b>Direct federal aid for students</b>
Family allowance Child tax credit	Study grants
Health and accident insurance for students	Study allowance for tuition fees
Tax benefits	Transport cost allowance
Subsidies for student residences and student restaurants	Insurance cost subsidy
Subsidies for the Austrian Union of Students	Grants for study abroad Travel cost allowance Subsidies for language courses
	Mobility Grant
	Grant upon completion of studies
	Student financial aid Child care subsidy
	Performance-related grants
	Incentive grants
	Orphan's pension for students
	Subsidized loans

The Student Support Act serves as a link for any kind of aid for students, as all social policy legislation for students repeatedly refers to the Student Support Act. Thereby a more intense integration and mutual consideration of other federal transfer payments is created, which the state awards eligible students who study efficiently. In combination with the parental child maintenance this system provides a cost-covering support during the academic year.

After the introduction of tuition fees in 2001 this system was extended to the study allowance. This refund of the tuition fees is awarded all students who receive a study grant and also those who successfully study but are not entitled to a study grant because of a slightly exceeding income level. Thus this instrument of study financing added to the broadening of direct financial study support.

On September 25, 2008 the Austrian Parliament enacted the abolition of the tuition fees for the majority of students. This amendment will have an effect in the summer semester 2009, so that the study allowance will be an exception in the future.

By the amendment to the study financing act in 2007 the calculated amount of study grant was increased by 12 %. There was no increase of the amount of study grant since the year 2000. In absolute figures this amendment is most beneficial to students from very low-income families. Students who are entitled to a study grant receive up to 876,- Euro more per year or 73,- Euro more per month ever since the academic year 2007/2008.

With the amendment to the study financing act in 2008, that entered into force on September 1, 2008 the reform in the government programme 2007 was implemented. Thereby the results of the social imposition 2007 as well as the interests of the Austrian student union were incorporated.

The vertices of the reform are:

- 1) increase of the income limits of the student's parents by approx. 20 %  
(The aim is the expansion of the number of students who are eligible to a study grant.)
- 2) the increase of the student's income which she/he is allowed to earn when receiving a study grant from 5800 Euro and 7195 Euro respectively to standard 8000 Euro per year.
- 3) The special support of students with the duty to look after their child/children: the duration for receiving a study grant was expanded in respect to the number of children and the time spent for child care. The age limit at the begin of the study programme for students with child/children was raised to 35 years.
- 4) Special support for students with disabilities: the amount of study grant was increased, the duration of support was increased and the age limit for the begin of the study programme was raised to 35 years.

The better accessibility to financial study support and its adaptation to the recent developments of the university law are also a main focus of the amendment 2008. The improvements relate to the permeability of the Bologna-Process, especially in the context of the transfer from the Bachelor programme to the Master programme, the standardisation of the proof of success in study with the help of ECTS-Points and therefore an improvement for the change of course of study and change of university (city), a simplification of the payment of the study grant and an improvement of the stages of appeal in the appeal procedure.

## **1. Indirect Federal Aid for Students**

Indirect federal aid for students, which represents an important component of social support during the course of studies, mainly consists of financial resources made available to students' parents (and/or students via their parents). The legally determined obligation of the parents to care for their children until they have reached the capacity for self-preservation constitutes the basis of entitlement to this type of financial aid. Federal aid for students should provide support to parents in this effort. There are subsidies designed to be made available to students by way of subsidies or reductions of certain expenses.

The supportive character of these measures is indicated by the fact that indirect federal aid for children basically ends at the end of a child's 18<sup>th</sup> year. In case of students this period may be extended to the age limit of 26 or 27 years.

### **1.1 Family Allowance**

This type of financial aid has its legal base in the **Equalization Fund for Family Allowances Act**. The amount of paid family allowance depends on the age and number of the children.

For students between 19 and 26 years<sup>1</sup> the family allowance amounts to 152.70 Euro per month.

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<sup>1</sup> in exceptional cases 27 years, if the student has served in the army, performed alternative service, or given birth to a child).

If there are at least three children in the family another 35,40 Euro is added to the sum of the family allowance since January 1, 2008. In the case of further children the entire amount is increased for four children and for each of the ones to follow by €50,90.

In certain cases, direct payment to the student is possible. Eligibility depends on the proof of academic advancement in one's area of studies in time.

The respective departments for family allowances at the financial authorities are responsible for the implementation of financial aid to students and their families.

For a detailed description of the eligibility and duration periods of supportive measures and their prolongation for important reasons in case of subsidized studies, and as a consequence of changing courses, please refer to the Student Support Act.

## 1.2 Health and Accident Insurance

Through the **General Social Security Law** - students are covered in the mandatory system of **accident insurance**. All accidents are covered which occur in connection with university studies as regards place, time and reason. Accident insurance is obligatory and does not require the student to pay separate fees. The equalization fund for family allowances completely covers the lump-sum expenses.

According to the rules of the General Social Security Law, students may choose to be covered under the **health insurance** policies as **relatives** of their parents or spouses. This type of **co-insurance** depends on the following preconditions: proof of academic advancement in the first period of post-secondary studies of eight credit hours per year; no special proof in the second period of studies, age limit of 27 years. Refer to the Student Support Act for a detailed description of courses qualifying for prolongation of the status of relatives beyond the age of 18.

**Self-insurance within (the system of mandatory) health insurance** is a way of providing students with favourable health insurance contracts, if none of the following opportunities of co-insurance via parents, spouses or partners, or gainful employment, are available. The Federal Ministry of Science and Research contributes half of the monthly health insurance fees. The preconditions for the subsidized self-insurance, in a modified way, orient themselves towards: income below €8,000 per year, maximum of two changes of courses,

minimum time required for studies may not be exceeded by more than 4 semesters. There is no age limit.

### 1.3 Tax Benefits

Students eligible for family allowances are also entitled to receive financial aid in accordance with the regulations of the Family Allowance Tax Act amending the **income tax law** of 1988:

Parents living with their children enrolled in university studies are eligible for a **child tax credit**. Those who do not live with their children in one household are eligible to receive a **child support tax credit**. The tax credits uniformly amount to €50.90 per child.

On the basis of the income tax law it is still possible to additionally file for a tax reduction due to **extraordinary expenses** for students studying outside their places of residence. Refer to the Financial Aid to Students Act for eligibility in terms of reasonable distances.

Only parents of students eligible for family allowances qualify for tax benefits. This ensures the eligibility for subsidies only for those students providing proof of academic progress in their field of study. Thus, reference is made to key regulations of the Student Support Act.

### 1.4 Subsidies for the Austrian Union of Students

In addition to subsidies for office space in the above-mentioned sectors, there is an increase in the subsidies of students – i.e. students in need of financial support receive financial aid in cooperation with the Austrian Union of Students.

**Financial aid** granted by the **Austrian Union of Students** is typically given in the form of low-cost meals to students, through financial support in the case of housing and expenses for child care, as well as via subsidies in case of social distress or conflicts with parents about support payments (the Austrian Union of Students assumes costs for legal counselling or mediation). The Austrian Union of Students receives funds from the government for these areas.

## 1.5 Subsidies for Student Residences and Student Restaurants

Federal subsidies for student residences, student homes, and kindergartens admitting students' children, are part of the indirect measures of government aid for students.

It is the objective to support non-profit organizations, associations and foundations providing housing for students according to the regulations of the Student Residences Act with investment subsidies in the case of construction, maintenance, and repair, and general restoration of student residences. These measures are intended to support students from outside university towns to be able to live at a reasonable price in terms of socially justifiable expenses for housing and thus ensure access to university and other post-secondary education.

The Austrian company “Österreichische Mensenbetriebsges.m.b.H” manages the major part of student restaurants, buffets and cafeterias. The company has been a 100% state-owned enterprise since 1997. According to the company contract the enterprise must provide meals to students at reasonable prices under the principle of covering costs. On the basis of recent market research and trend analyses over the course of the past few years, a systematic process of reorganization of the individual subsidiaries has begun in order to adjust to changing demands. The Federal Ministry for Science and Research grants financial subsidies for the establishment of new student restaurants, etc., and supports general restoration of existing enterprises. No subsidies are granted for the operation of student restaurants, cafeterias and buffets.

## **2. Direct Federal Aid to Students**

As a rule, direct federal aid to students is only granted on the basis of differentiated social criteria and only in cases of concurrent academic advancement. There are only a few cases of direct federal aid awarded to students purely on the basis of performance criteria.

The various types of federal aid to students, with the exception of orphan's pensions to students, are regulated in the Student Support Act of 1992 (for a detailed description see items 2.1 to 2.10).

### **2.1. Study Grants**

The Austrian system of study grants basically favours **financial aid via lost subsidies**. In general, there is no obligation to pay back the grants received, except in the case of missing proof of academic advancement after the first two semesters (as well as the illegal acceptance of grants). **Other systems of financial aid to students** in place in other countries include:

- financial support by (partially or totally) low-interest repayable loans,
- financial support in combination with exemption from payment of tuition fees,
- increased independence of family situation in the case of financial support,
- redistribution of funds via payment of all students into one fund for study grants,
- linking of direct and indirect aid for students,
- financing of financial aid for students by introducing a tax for post-graduates,
- Extension of financial aid to students by introducing financial aid for post-graduates with obligation to pay back subsidies.

### **Eligibility**

One of the basic preconditions is to perform studies at an Austrian post-secondary educational institution. Studies abroad will only be financially supported under special conditions (see item 2.5 and 2.6). The following groups of students are eligible:

- Regular students at universities,
- Regular students at an Austrian university of the arts,
- Students at “*Fachhochschulen*” (universities of applied sciences),
- Applicants admitted to the university entrance qualification exam (preparatory course) for two semesters maximum,
- Regular students at educational institutions with public status or public Universities of Education,
- Students at Conservatories (in case of individual courses) and at comparable private schools with the exception of preparatory courses
- Under certain circumstances at private universities and “*Fachhochschulen*” (universities of applied sciences) and universities in South Tyrol (Bolzano province).

The students in question must be Austrian **citizens** in principle. Foreign citizens may only be treated equally in the case of close relation to Austria (at least 5 years subject to Austrian income tax via at least one parent), citizens of EEC-countries and citizens of a third country are generally treated equally, as far as it may be concluded from the treaty; and refugees under the Geneva Convention.

## **Preconditions**

### **Social Need**

The social need is assessed on the basis of income and number of family members of the student, his/her parents and his/her spouse.

The student’s income regarding the amount in cash is only relevant for periods of time during which the student receives study grants.

### **Income**

Income in the sense of the Student Support Act would be the annual gross income minus tax-free income, promotional costs and extraordinary expenses as well as similar expenses of relevance in terms of tax law. A certain amount of tax-free income and depreciation will be

added. The term “income” as stipulated in the Student Support Act is in accordance with the income tax law of 1988.

It is required to submit proof of any income according to the most recent tax assessment, income from gainful employment by means of a pay slip of the most recent calendar year and income from agricultural and forestry activities as determined by the most recent assessed taxable property value (if there is no income tax assessment).

### **Academic Advancement**

During the first two semesters of studies, admission as a regular student will suffice as proof of academic advancement. For the subsequent semesters, regulations require students to submit proof of academic advancement in a given field of study (ECTS-points or credits for courses and exams).

In the calculation of the total time of study 30 ECTS-Points are the equivalent to one semester.

However, the pre-determined timeframe for completing one’s study programme may not be exceeded by more than **one** semester (“semester of tolerance”).

### **Completion of Studies**

The student is **not allowed** to have **completed another study programme** or a comparable post-secondary education in Austria or abroad.

## **Age**

The student must start his/her studies before completing his/her 30th birthday. Gainful employment, raising of children or disablement may increase the age limit for the commencement of a master program to a maximum of 35 years of age.

Generally students are allowed to work and be gainfully employed during their time of studies. If their annual income exceeds the amount of € 8.000, the exceeding amount will have to be paid back.

## **Change of Studies**

The student may not change his/her field of studies more than two times and not later than after the second semester of former studies. (Reason: Only swift and serious studies will be subsidized). A delayed change of one's study programme will result in non-eligibility for grants. It is possible, however, to be included in the programme of subsidies again after a required elapse of time and convincing academic advancement. The regulations of change of studies are also valid for the receipt of family allowance.

## **Amounts of Study Grants**

The maximum monthly amount of study grants is as follows.

Generally, in the case of single students: €475 (€5700/year)

In the case of students whose parents have passed away: €679 (€8148/year)

In the case of married students: €679 (€8148/year)

In the case of students who have supported themselves for four years before starting their studies („self-supporters“): €679 (€8148/year)

In the case of students who must live in the university town because the daily travelling time from their home town to the university site would be unreasonable: €679 (€8148/year)

(living with parents/living far away from  
parents):

€542/€746 (€6504 or €8952/year)

As regards severely disabled students they receive additional 160 Euro or 420 Euro per month depending on the degree of disability if they live with their parents.

The study grant is paid out twelve times a year.

### Determination of Study Grants

In any particular case, the actual amount of study grants for two semesters results from the calculation that a reasonable amount of maintenance payments by the parents and the spouses, as well as the assumed amounts of income of the student and family allowances and the child tax credit (in case a student has not reached 26 years of age yet), are subtracted from the annual maximum study grants.

The amount of reasonable maintenance payments from parents is determined via the income of the number of family members (under consideration), for whom the parents or the spouses have to pay maintenance. The tax deductions provide the opportunity to compensate for social imbalance to a major extent (gainful employment) and to consider the different expenses according to age and education of the other children subject to maintenance.

An example for the calculation of study grants:

A student (21) from Amstetten – Lower Austria, studies at the Vienna University of Economics and lives at a Viennese student dorm. The student earns a small income from a work contract.

Maximum study grant for non-resident students

(according to § 26 II Student Support Act)	€7,272
minus Parental maintenance payments	- €2,301
minus family allowance + child tax credit	- €2,533.20
= annual study grant	€2,437.80
plus 12 % =	€2,730.33
divided by 12	= € 227,52 ~ €228,00

The monthly study grant amounts to €228.--. If the student was over 26, the study grant would amount to €464.-- per month (due to non-eligibility of family allowance and child tax credit). Should a student earn an income of his or her own during the period of eligibility which exceeds €8000 this would lead to a recalculation with a corresponding request for return payment of study grants.

## Applications for Study Grants

Applications for study grants must be submitted in the legally determined, exact periods of time (winter term: September 20 to December 15, summer term: February 20 to May 15). The official forms of application provided by the study grant authority (also online: [www.stipendium.at](http://www.stipendium.at)) are to be filled in. All required documents of proof are to be included. In case an application is submitted after expiration of the application period, the study grant may be allocated as per the month following the application.

## Time of Eligibility and Payment of Study Grants

The study grants are allocated for two semesters each.

Since the introduction of the system application, the succeeding application is filed automatically, if no major changes – like the change of field of study or the change of educational institution – occur. Only if these changes have occurred or if the eligibility to receive a study grant has expired (temporarily), the student needs to file a new application.

The study grant valid for two semesters is paid out on a monthly basis.

The time of eligibility for study grants (= period of time for which the maximum amount of study grants is allocated) generally includes the legally determined times of study courses per study programme, plus one semester of tolerance.

Examples:

1) Medical studies  $2(+1) + 6(+1) + 4(+1) = 15$  semesters    time of eligibility

(In a study course that entitles to the academic title “Diplom” that is divided into sections of study, one tolerance semester is given per section.)

2) Electrical engineering: Bachelorprogram:  $6(+1) = 7$  semesters and  
Masterprogram:  $4(+1) = 5$  Semesters time of eligibility

Due to important reasons (extraordinary stress during studies, illness, child care, pregnancy, disablement etc.) for which the student is not responsible, it may be possible to request a prolongation of the period of eligibility for study grants.

### **Return Payment of Study Grants**

Unless half of the credits/ECTS credits per semester required as proof of academic advancement are submitted, the cash amount of study grants received has to be paid back. (Reason: In principle, eligibility for study grants depends on academic progress; it is obligatory to submit proof of such academic advancement at a later date). Unlike the systems of study grants in other countries, it is not required to pay back study grants received (with the exception of illegal acceptance or grants paid out after the completion of studies).

## **2.2 Study allowance**

Starting with the academic year 2001/2002, obligatory tuition fees have been introduced at universities and universities of the arts. The “*Fachhochschulen*” (universities of applied sciences) have permission to do so as well. Simultaneously, a supportive measure in the framework of financial aid for students -- the so-called **study allowance** -- was introduced. It is designed to help finance the tuition fees via federal means in the case of **students in need of financial support**.

Students having paid the tuition fees are eligible for this supportive measure.

Since the tuition fees have been abolished for the majority of students from the summer semester 2009 on, the relevance of the study allowances has decreased.

## Subsidized Loans

Students who have paid the tuition fees and who have not received any state-funded compensation (e.g. students eligible for study grants), may receive a subsidized bank loan. According to an agreement between the Federal Ministry of Science and Research and Austrian banks, the government pays a support towards the interest rate that relates to the EURIBOR-interest rate. The loan would be granted **exclusively for the purpose of funding the tuition fees** and would have to be paid back after completion of one's studies. **Subsidized interest** will be granted for a maximum of 15 semesters. No proof of social need and academic advancement is required.

## 2.3. Transport Cost Allowance

Transport cost allowance is designed to partly compensate students eligible for study grants for the eliminated supportive measures according to the Equalization Fund for Family Allowances Act (free transportation for pupils and students, grants for transportation to school)

The amount of the transport cost allowance is paid out by the authorities for study grants by law and depends on the actual transportation costs. There is no legal title to such an allowance (no notice).

## 2.4. Insurance Cost Allowance

### Preconditions

Insurance cost allowance is granted to students receiving study grants who have the opportunity of self-insurance within the framework of health insurance, if there is no option for co-insurance with parents. In the case of this type of subsidized self-insurance, one part of the insurance costs is financed by the Federal Ministry of Science and Research on the basis of a contract with the Association of Social Insurance Carriers. Students eligible for study grants receive the other part as well via an insurance cost subsidy. It amounts to 19 € per month (twelve times per year).

## Eligibility

The insurance cost allowance is ex officio paid out regularly after the end of the semester by the study grant authority.

## 2.5 Grants for Study Abroad

Grants for study abroad are awarded in two ways: first, through **extension of eligibility for study grants** for the period of study abroad, by no longer than four semesters; secondly, through additional supportive measures such as grants for study abroad, including travel cost allowance and subsidies for language courses.

## Preconditions

- General preconditions for eligibility for study grants,
- One diploma exam, or one doctoral exam, or, unless such major exams are not required, two semesters of credit counting toward completion of one's studies. For studies at universities of applied sciences ("Fachhochschulen") and so called "bachelor programmes" that are not divided into sections of study ("Studienabschnitte") only two semesters are required instead of the above mentioned four semesters.
- Studies at the foreign university must be equivalent to studies at an Austrian post-secondary educational institution.
- Minimum of three months (grant offered for a maximum of 20 months).

A study programme entirely conducted abroad can not be supported through these measures.

## Actual Amount of Supportive Measure

The grant for study abroad amounts to a maximum of 582 € per month. The exact determination of the monthly amount depends on an ordinance by the Federal Minister of Science and Research and is based on the costs of living and studying in the respective country.

Examples:

- €73 to €146 monthly in east-European countries

- €116 to €276 in Germany, France, Italy or the Netherlands
- Up to Euro €429 in Great Britain and €487 in the U.S.A.
- in Japan €472 to €582

## Eligibility

The authority for study grants will decide on eligibility of grants and supportive measures.

## Return Payment

Those students receiving assistance for study abroad will have to provide proof of academic advancement to the authority for study grants after completion of one's study abroad, otherwise they will have to pay back the money granted.

## Subsidies for Language Courses

As a preparatory measure for a student's study abroad, the ministry offers subsidies for ad-hoc language courses. These subsidies may cover part of the costs for a language course, or result in the extension of the grant for one's study abroad by an additional month. There is no legal title to such a supportive measure.

## Travel Cost Allowance

Travel cost allowance may be granted for travelling to the respective university site abroad. There is no legal title to such a supportive measure.

## 2.6 Mobility Grant

In the winter term 2008/2009 the mobility grant is introduced as a new form of financial student support. The mobility grant has the function to support students who study the total course of their bachelor or master program at a state approved university, university of applied sciences or a University of Education outside Austria but within the EEA and Switzerland.

Preconditions for the mobility grant are:

1. the university entrance qualification was achieved in Austria
2. the applicant had her/his residence and centre of vital interests in Austria for at least five years before applying for the mobility grant and
3. the applicant has not applied for another financial support according to the Student Support Act.

## 2.7 Grant Upon Completion of Studies

The “grant upon completion of studies” is designed to offer those students who have been gainfully employed during their studies the opportunity to complete them without stress at their jobs, especially during the period of time needed for the completion of one’s final diploma papers. This supportive measure is granted for a maximum of eighteen months for the completion of studies.

Eligibility criteria are a minimum of half-time employment for at least 36 months in the previous four years, including officially recognised periods of child care. The diploma paper must be in progress and there must be only a few exams left. Gainful employment must be given up for the period of time during which the grant is paid out. The age limit is 41.

The grant amounts between €600 and €1040 depending on the number of working hours of a student’s recent gainful employment. Fully employed individuals receive higher grants, others the respective percentage, such as half-time, three-quarters etc. Should the subsidies not be paid back within six months after the last payment of the grant upon completion of studies, the entire amount of money received will have to be reimbursed.

The European Social Fund finances 46 % of this supportive measure.

The Federal Ministry of Science and Research, in cooperation with the Austrian Union of Students, grants **child care subsidies** for child care costs for those students about to complete their study programme, or students performing an internship in Austria or abroad. The supportive measure is granted for a maximum of six months and amounts to up to 150 € per child. This supportive measure is co-financed by the European Social Fund with the objective

of increasing the percentage of gainfully employed students and/or post-graduates with children.

## 2.8 Student Financial Aid

### Preconditions

Student financial aid is designed to

- compensate for social needs or particularly difficult conditions of a student's academic career,
- promote excellent academic performance,
- support housing costs
- promote students at non-Austrian universities close to the Austrian border, and those enrolled in non-Austrian universities offering distance-learning study courses, and to promote study-related practical experience,
- to promote stays abroad,
- to promote scientific or artistic work,
- to promote relevant professional experiences,
- to help with the financing of tuitions fees,
- to support disabled students (with a disablement of at least 50 %).

For example, special supplementary payments are offered for child care expenses during study-related practical training, or during the final period of one's studies.

Student financial aid represents a non-bureaucratic tool designed to compensate for special needs deriving from strict interpretation of the law.

### Amount of Student Financial Aid

The amount of these supportive measures ranges from € 180,- to the maximum amount offered as study grants (for two semesters).

### Eligibility

There is **no legal title** to such a supportive measure. Students may apply for it at the respective ministry. Eligibility is granted within the sphere of “public administration acting under private law”.

## 2.9 Performance-related Grants

### Preconditions

Performance-related grants may only be awarded to students who

- have an excellent record of academic progress (universities or private universities, “*Fachhochschulen*”/ universities of applied sciences, and other educational institutions determine the concrete parameters of this offer),
- have not exceeded the eligibility period of the respective section of the study programme.
- have a grade point average of no more than 2.0.

The concretion is carried out by the Universities, the private Universities, the Universities of Applied sciences and the theological academies.

Important: There is no precondition of social need (income and property of parents are not considered).

### Amount of Performance-related Grant

The amount of the performance-related grant may not fall below €726,72 per academic year.

### Eligibility

There is **no legal title** to performance-related grants. Students may apply for this supportive measure in their respective courses. The deans and/or heads of educational institution will decide on a student’s eligibility or the respective organ responsible for legal matters in this field.

## 2.10 Incentive Grants

### Preconditions

Incentive grants may only be granted to students of universities, private universities, and religious colleges

- in order to engage in scientific or artistic work, and submitting proof of above-average advancement in one's studies,
- after presentation of the expert opinion of a university professor about the respective work,
- if the student is still within the timeframe of eligibility.

### **Amount of Incentive Grants**

The actual amounts of incentive grants are between 700 € and 3,600 € for one academic year.

### **Eligibility**

There is **no legal title** to eligibility for an incentive grant. The student may apply for it when officially offered by the university by submitting a description and financing plan for his/her academic work in progress. The deans and/or heads of educational institution will decide on a student's eligibility or the respective organ responsible for legal matters in this field.

## **2.11 Orphan's Pensions**

Orphan's pensions will be granted after the death of one parent beyond the age of 18, but no longer than until age 27, provided that a student pursues his/her studies in a serious and goal-oriented manner. The annual proof of successfully passed exams is necessary.

## Study Grant Authority

The Study Grant Authority is responsible for any type of information, applications, appeals and interventions regarding questions pertaining to study grants, study allowances, transport cost allowance, grants upon completion of studies, insurance cost subsidies, mobility grant and grants for study abroad.

The Study Grant Authority consists of study grant departments and is headed by the Federal Ministry of Science and Research. Such study grant departments have been established in Vienna, Graz, Innsbruck, Salzburg, Linz and Klagenfurt. Students at the city of Leoben are serviced by the Graz-based office.

For further information please consult the homepage of the Study Grant Authority [www.stipendium.at](http://www.stipendium.at) On this website you can also find the forms to apply for all kinds of financial student support (via download or online application).

## Procedures and Legal Measures

The Study Grant Authority decides on study grants according to the “General Law on Administrative Procedures” (AVG) by means of a notice following an application or appeal. This procedure relies on data-processing techniques and a shortened procedure of assessment. Decisions are made on the basis of clearly identified certificates by authorities and statements by students and their parents. The required simplicity and swiftness of this procedure is determined by the shortened period of decision (3 months) -- and, thus, by the shortened period of appeal to a higher authority according to § 73 AVG.

The right of appeal against such a notice includes **personal intervention**, which will be decided on in the course of an **assessment procedure** by a senate of the Study Grant Authority (collegial body consisting of university professors, student representatives and officials of the Study Grant Authority, at a ratio of 1:2:1) by way of a notice. It is possible to obtain an intervention-related preliminary decision already from a case officer of the Study Grant Authority – similar to the preliminary decision on an appeal according to § 64a AVG.

In this case, the above-mentioned predecision on an appeal is explicitly ruled out. If the Studienförderung Englisch (01/2010)

application deadline was missed the rules regarding the restitutio in integrum according § 71 AVG are applicable.

This notice by the Senate regarding the intervention may be answered within the framework of the universities by an **appeal** to the Federal Ministry for Science and Research (for other educational institutions the Federal Ministry for Education, Art and Culture, the Municipal School Board and/or Provincial School Board, or the provincial governor are responsible).