

Return of Title IV Funds Policy - Financial Aid for U.S. Students 2018-19

1.0 Overview

U.S. Federal regulations require that if a student receiving Title IV (U.S. Federal Aid) funds withdraws from their course, Solent University completes a Return of Title IV calculation. This is completed by the Student Funding team. The amount of Title IV funds (Direct Loan and PLUS loans) due for return by the University as a result of student withdrawal is different and calculated independently of tuition fee liability charged by the University following a student's withdrawal from a programme, it is therefore possible that you may have to return loan money and still have tuition fees to pay to Solent University.

For tuition fee charging policy or further information please see;

<http://www.solent.ac.uk/studying/fees/tuition-fees/overseas-students.aspx>

Loan programmes governed by these regulations are

- DIRECT Subsidized Loan
- DIRECT Unsubsidized Loan
- DIRECT PLUS (Parent and Graduate) Loans

Early Withdrawal from the course programme

2.1 Registration of Withdrawal

Students are required to inform their School, and the Student Funding Team (student.funding@solent.ac.uk) of their withdrawal. The withdrawal date is the date the School enters into the University student records system. If you are considering withdrawing, you are strongly advised to seek detailed advice from the Student Funding team who will be able to give you a detailed breakdown of your loan money to be immediately returned to the US Government and the effect on what you owe to the university.

2.2 Calculation of Title IV entitlement

Federal Law specifies how the University must calculate funding entitlement earned up to the point a student withdraws from the University. If a student withdraws prior to completing 60% of the relevant period they have not 'earned' all of their federal financial aid and a Return of Title IV Funds calculation must be performed.

The University usually disburses federal aid in termly instalments, subject to normal disbursement conditions, so the calculation is based on the number of days in each term that you are in registration. No disbursements will be made to students who have failed to enrol, withdraw or completed their programme.

For the purpose of calculating federal aid entitlement a study day is any day in the relevant period that is available for study, regardless of whether any teaching is scheduled. Scheduled breaks of 5 days or more are excluded from both attendance counted and payment period.

Example: Undergraduate Student Periods

Loan disbursement week beg	Relevant Period	Number of Study Days
Disbursement 1 - 15/10/2018	24/09/2018 - 14/12/2018	82
Disbursement 2 - 14/1/2019	07/01/2019 - 05/04/2019	89
Disbursement 3 - 23/4/2019	23/04/2019 - 21/06/2019	60

An undergraduate student starts their course on 24/09/2018 but withdraws on 9/11/2018. They have completed 47 days of the 82 day relevant period and has earned 57% of their federal aid disbursement. If the student received £2,500 in federal aid the University must return 43% of this amount, equalling £1,075.00 to the lender. This would be charged as a debt against the student account.

If the student had instead withdrawn on 16/11/2018 they would have completed 54 days of the relevant 82 day period and earned 65% of their federal aid. As this exceeds 60%, they have a 100% entitlement to federal aid for that period and no Title IV refund would be required.

Example: Postgraduate Student Periods

Postgraduate instalments are released termly but cover the periods below.

Loan Disbursement Date Relevant Period

Loan Disbursement Date*	Relevant Period (52 Weeks = 365 days)	Study Days
Disbursement 1	24/09/2018 - 31/12/2018	98
Disbursement 2	01/01/2019 - 31/03/2019	90
Disbursement 3	01/04/2019 - 23/09/2019	176

* Dates are for example purposes only postgraduate students may start their course in January or April.

Postgraduate student starts their course on 24/09/2018 but withdraws on 12/11/2018. They have completed 49 days of the 98 day relevant period and has earned 50% of his federal aid disbursement. If the student received £4,000 in federal aid the University must return 50% of this amount, equalling £2,000 to the lender. This would be charged as a debt against the student account.

Note: If the student had withdrawn on 07/12/2018, they would have completed 75 days of the relevant 90 period and earned 68% of their federal aid. As this exceeds 60%, they have a 100% entitlement to federal aid for that period and no Title IV refund would be required.

2.3 Liability of the Student where Title IV funds are returned.

Federal regulations require the University to return unearned funds within 45 days. If the return of the funds creates a balance due on the student account, the student will be responsible to pay the full balance on their account. If funds have been returned for a student based on a specified withdrawal date those funds cannot be reinstated if the withdrawal date is later changed for whatever reason.

2.4 Further Information.

Before withdrawing financial aid recipients can contact the Student Funding Team based in the Student Hub.