

Information relating to a new laptop and data scheme for students

To ensure the health and wellbeing of all students, the university has moved to an active blended learning approach for academic year 2020/21. This will entail a mix of online and in person teaching. The university is minded to ensure that this approach does not disadvantage students unduly, and is therefore making provision for assistance so that students can purchase a laptop and/or data contract, should they be required.

Laptops will be available to students who meet the criteria listed within the policy document (below), and the application process is described below.

Students looking for assistance with data will need to apply for the LJMU Student Support Fund via the standard application form and will be assessed based on financial need. The application can be found in the MYLJMU area of the website. Certain documents will need to be provided including evidence of student finance and bank statements. In addition to support with data, the team will assess if students are eligible for any other support on hardship grounds.

Laptops for students Policy

Introduction

In line with many other educational institutions, LJMU has moved to an active blended learning pedagogical approach for the 2020/21 academic year in response to the challenges posed by the COVID19 pandemic. However this brings with it challenges in accessibility for students who may be unable to access computer equipment and/or appropriate data.

The university wishes to support students and has developed an assistance plan for students most likely to need such support, utilising local Access and Participation data. The scheme will enable students to be able to access support with the purchase of a laptop should they not have access to one already.

Range of Support

Laptops - The University has procured a number of laptops for students with an external IT company. Students, if successful, will be given a code to assist with up to £578 towards the purchase of a laptop of their choice.

Data – assistance is also available with the cost of a data package. Students will wish to find the best contract for their circumstances and therefore the university has decided to assist with cost only. Students looking for assistance with data will need to apply for the **LJMU Student Support Fund** via the standard application form. The application can be found in the MYLJMU area of the website. Certain documents will need to be provided including evidence of student finance and bank statements. In addition to support with data, the team will assess if students are eligible for any other support on hardship grounds.

Eligibility for the laptop scheme

To be eligible for the laptop scheme, the following criteria must be met:

- Student must be studying full time on their chosen undergraduate course during academic year 2020/21.
- Student must be a home students (meet the residency requirements for student finance).
- Student must have completed registration on a course for the academic year 2020/21.
- Student must not be in their final year of study in the Academic year 2020-21
- Student must have a Student Loan Company (SLC) declared household income less than £25000.

If the scheme is oversubscribed, then priority will be given to those who have disclosed the lowest household incomes. Priority will also be given at each income point to students who have also disclosed at least one of the following at the point of registration:

- Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority student
- Mature student (aged over the age of 21 on 1st of September 2020)
- Care leaver or estranged student

As equipment is restricted in number, additional weighting and therefore priority, will be given to students who meet multiple eligibility criteria. While the University will strive to assist as many students as possible disclosure of one or more of the above characteristics does not guarantee receipt of a laptop.

Students must have approved the SLC to share household income data with the University. If students did not permit this sharing we will not be able to verify income data and eligibility for the scheme.

In relation to this scheme, a Care Leaver is categorised as someone who has been in the care of a Local Authority for a period of 13 weeks or more spanning their 16th birthday. The term 'estranged student' refers to students who are studying without the support of a family network and have had no contact with either parent for a sustained period of time. Students should normally be assessed as independent by their funding body (for example, Student Finance England) because they are estranged from both parents to be eligible for support. If you are in receipt of a LJMU John Lennon Imagine Award you are eligible under these criteria.

Additional weighting to the application will be allocated relating to the amount of time remaining on the programme (for example a on a standard 3 year Undergraduate programme a L4 student will receive priority for a Laptop voucher over a L5 student when all other criteria are equal).

Application process

Eligible students will be emailed and asked to submit their details via the provided link.

The closing date for applications is 5pm on Friday 30th April 2021.

Allocation of awards

Students who meet the criteria and are deemed successful will be issued with an email voucher from LJMU which will include a link and a code for the £578 discount when used with Getech (the approved supplier)

Legal statement

The university shall not be liable to the student in contract, tort (including negligence), for breach of statutory duty, or otherwise, arising under or in connection with the monies advanced to the student to pay for the laptop or the student's use of the laptop. The university shall not be liable for loss of use or corruption of software, data or information; any special, indirect or consequential damage of any nature, which arises directly or indirectly from the purchase of the laptop or the student's use of the laptop. The laptop shall be the student's sole responsibility and should the laptop require any maintenance, software or repair the costs shall be met by the student alone and the university shall not be liable for this or any ongoing costs or liabilities associated with the laptop or use of it.

The student is not permitted to sell or transfer ownership of the laptop that they purchase from the laptop scheme, as the laptop scheme is to assist students in need and not for students to make any financial gain when utilising this scheme.

Process

- Students will submit their name, university ID and indicate relevant eligibility criteria through the online form
- All details will be collated at the end of business on Friday 9th April
- Student details will be cross-referenced against SiS data held for each student.
- Applications will be reviewed per the eligibility criteria above. This will identify students with multiple indicators as well as family/household income thresholds of less than £25000.
- If the scheme is oversubscribed at this point, family/household income will be lowered in £1000 increments to prioritise those on lower incomes. At each income point:
 - 1 An additional weighting will be allocated if a student declares a characteristic as listed below BAME / Mature / Care Leaver or Estranged student
 - 2 An additional weighting will be added to prioritise those students meeting the financial criteria above alongside Level of study (this will mean students with a higher number of study years remaining will receive priority)

The table below summarises the weighted scoring model for eligibility criteria. Students scoring the highest number of points will be prioritised. If the scheme is oversubscribed, additional differentiation between SLC declared income boundaries may be required. For example SLC declared income may need to further sub categorised into income bands of £100.

To further explain the scoring system presented below, as an example a mature student with a declared SLC income of £20000 would receive 5 points based on SLC records and 3 points for their mature status. Furthermore they are in the first year of a 3 year programme and thus 3 more points will be awarded. This student scores a total of 11 points. Students will be ranked according to total points and laptop vouchers will be awarded to students accordingly.

Measure	SIS/SLC	Points
Household Income 0k – <0.5K	Yes	25
Household Income 0.5k <1K	Yes	24.5
Household Income 1K <1.5K	Yes	24
Household Income 1.5K < 2K	Yes	23.5
Household Income 2K < 2.5K	Yes	23
Household Income 2.5K < 3K	Yes	22.5
Household Income 3K < 3.5K	Yes	22
Household Income 3.5K < 4K	Yes	21.5
Household Income 4K < 4.5K	Yes	21
Household Income 4.5K < 5K	Yes	20.5
Household Income 5K <5.5K	Yes	20
Household Income 5.5K < 6K	Yes	19.5
Household Income 6K < 6.5K	Yes	19
Household Income 6.5K < 7K	Yes	18.5
Household Income 7K < 7.5K	Yes	18
Household Income 7.5K < 8K	Yes	17.5
Household Income 8K < 8.5K	Yes	17
Household Income 8.5K < 9K	Yes	16.5
Household Income 9K < 9.5K	Yes	16
Household Income 9.5K < 10K	Yes	15.5
Household Income 10K < 10.5K	Yes	15

Household Income 10.5K < 11K	Yes	14.5
Household Income 11K < 11.5K	Yes	14
Household Income 11.5K < 12K	Yes	13.5
Household Income 12K < 12.5K	Yes	13
Household Income 12.5K < 13K	Yes	12.5
Household Income 13K < 13.5K	Yes	12
Household Income 13.5K < 14K	Yes	11.5
Household Income 14K < 14.5K	Yes	11
Household Income 14.5K < 15K	Yes	10.5
Household Income 15K < 15.5K	Yes	10
Household Income 15.5K < 16K	Yes	9.5
Household Income 16K < 16.5K	Yes	9
Household Income 16.5K < 17K	Yes	8.5
Household Income 17K < 17.5K	Yes	8
Household Income 17.5K < 18K	Yes	7.5
Household Income 18K < 18.5K	Yes	7
Household Income 18.5K < 19K	Yes	6.5
Household Income 19K < 19.5K	Yes	6
Household Income 19.5K < 20K	Yes	5.5
Household Income 20K < 20.5K	Yes	5
Household Income 20.5K < 21K	Yes	4.5
Household Income 21K < 21.5K	Yes	4
Household Income 21.5K < 22K	Yes	3.5
Household Income 22K < 22.5K	Yes	3
Household Income 22.5K < 23K	Yes	2.5
Household Income 23K < 23.5K	Yes	2
Household Income 23.5K < 24K	Yes	1.5
Household Income 24k < 24.5k	Yes	1
Household Income 24.5k < 25K	Yes	0.5

BAME	Yes	3
Care Leaver/Estranged Student	Yes	3
Mature	Yes	3
Programme Length Remaining 4 Years		
Foundation Year / Integrated Masters	Yes	4
Programme Length Remaining 3 Years	Yes	3
Programme Length Remaining 2 Years	Yes	2