

Some British Forces Germany based families have experienced difficulties in applying for student finance for young people due to enter university in the coming academic year. Please see the boxes below for info to address this problem:

Info for young people and their parents, normally resident in England are applying for university places for the coming academic year:

Access to finance has been a problem because *Student Finance England* Internet registration portal does not accept BFPO numbers in the address section.

Student Finance England have now provided the following advice:

Registration Portal: access to the registration portal through a BFPO number will be addressed. However, it is unlikely that a technical fix will be achieved in the short term. In the meantime, parents and prospective students should submit applications in hard copy on forms that can be downloaded and printed from the Student Finance England UK Government Web Page at www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance 'Forms and guides 2009/2010'.

Advice to BFG Residents: parents and students living in British Forces Germany but normally resident in England are advised to submit a covering letter with each application stating:

"The applicant is the child of a member of the British Army / UK Government Civil Servant who would normally be living in the England but who is currently resident in Germany by virtue of his / her* assignment to 1st (United Kingdom) Armoured Division / Other Formation - Organisation*. It is understood, for the purposes of this application and based on advice provided by Student Finance England, that the applicant is currently 'living in the UK' and is a UK permanent resident who may continue to live in the UK without any Home Office restriction placed on how long he / she may stay*^ (* delete as applicable)*

Further information is available via the Web Page or contact Student Finance England for advice - Telephone UK 0845 300 50 90

Info for young people and their parents, normally resident in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland who are applying for university places for the coming academic year:

As above, access to finance has been a problem because the internet registration portal does not accept BFPO numbers in the address section. Parents and students from families normally resident in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland may access advice through:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/UniversityAndHigherEducation/StudentFinance/DG_10035314. In these cases a covering letter should also be submitted with each hard copy application form claiming normal residency at one of those places as below:

"The applicant is the child of a member of the British Army / UK Government Civil Servant who would normally be living in the England but who is currently resident in Germany by virtue of his / her* assignment to 1st (United Kingdom) Armoured Division / Other Formation - Organisation*. It is understood, for the purposes of this application and based on advice provided by Student Finance England, that the applicant is currently 'living in the UK' and is a UK permanent resident who may continue to live in the UK without any Home Office restriction placed on how long he / she may stay* (* delete as applicable)*