

Quick guide

Accelerated, compressed and shortened courses

Accelerated courses

Overview

To widen participation and offer more flexible study patterns from academic year (AY) 2019/20, higher education providers in England can offer an accelerated degree with a higher fee amount per academic year. Most students on these courses will be able to access the higher fee funding.

The most important messages for accelerated degrees are:

- the higher fee cap is available to English providers only
- only students starting a course in AY 2019/20 or later are eligible for the higher fee funding
- the maximum fee rates for accelerated courses are 1.2 times the maximum standard fee rate, per AY (rounded to the nearest whole £5)
- the maximum fee chargeable per academic year is £11,100
- PG ITT courses are not eligible
- the maintenance support available to students on accelerated degrees will remain 'as is' (loan for living costs plus long course loans for additional weeks of study in the AY where applicable)
- previous study rules remain 'as is'
- the maximum values for Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) remain the same
- accelerated courses can be undertaken by attendance or distance learning
- accelerated course funding is allowed for placement and Erasmus years as long as the required conditions are met (the course must be a minimum of one year shorter than an equivalent standard-length course, at least 50% must be studied in the UK, the degree must be awarded in the UK)

The Welsh Government has confirmed it will not provide additional funding up to the higher fee cap for its students. However, it will fund up to a standard course fee cap. Welsh students will need to self-fund the difference.

English, Scottish and Northern Irish students can access funding up to the higher fee rate. However, Northern Irish students studying at an Approved provider will continue to be subject to a maximum fee cap of £4,275 for both standard and accelerated degree courses.

Course eligibility

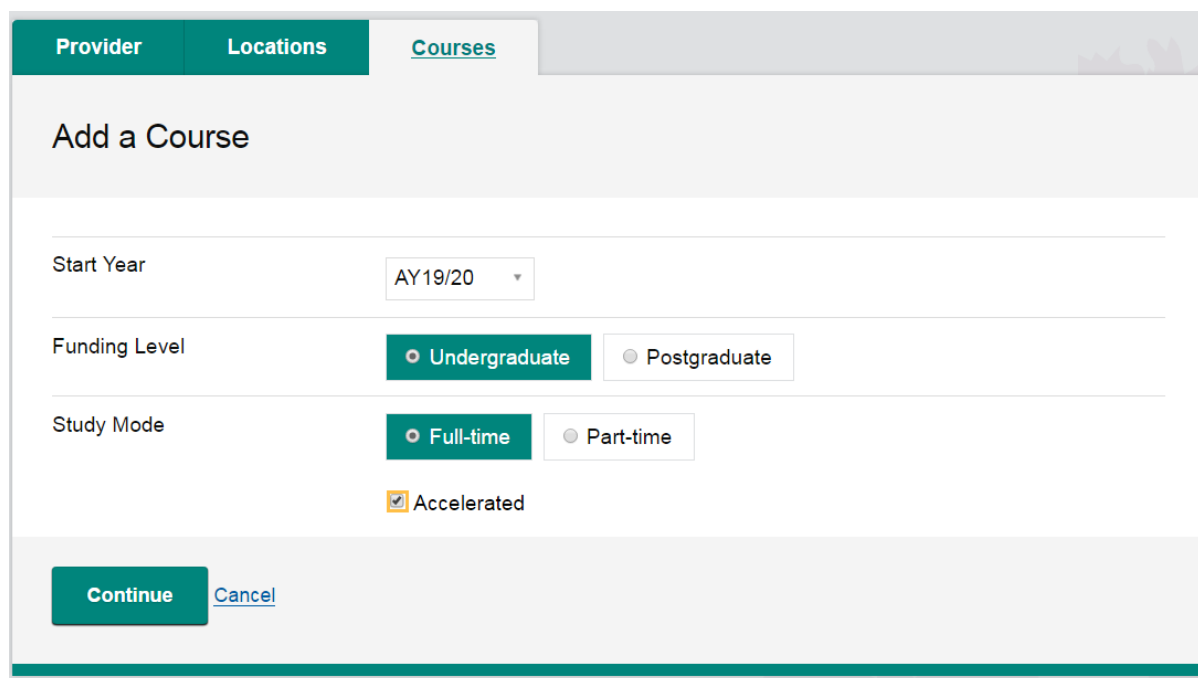
For an accelerated course to be eligible for the higher fee cap from AY 2019/20 it must meet the following criteria:

- the course must be provided by an English provider
- the course must lead to one of the following degree qualifications:
 - bachelor's degree with honours
 - bachelor's degree
 - integrated master's degree
- the course must be full-time
- the course must be studied over the length of an equivalent standard-length course minus one year

Adding an accelerated course to CMS

Choosing Accelerated

To create an accelerated course for new students in AY 2019/20, select the **Accelerated** check box shown below.



The screenshot shows the 'Add a Course' form in the CMS. The 'Courses' tab is active. The form includes the following fields and options:

- Start Year:** A dropdown menu set to 'AY19/20'.
- Funding Level:** Radio buttons for 'Undergraduate' (selected) and 'Postgraduate'.
- Study Mode:** Radio buttons for 'Full-time' (selected) and 'Part-time'.
- Accelerated:** A checkbox that is checked.

At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: 'Continue' and 'Cancel'.

Once you select **Continue**, the **Study Mode** field will show that you have chosen to create an accelerated degree:

Add a Course

All fields are required unless marked Optional.

Course Details

Funding Level	Undergraduate
Study Mode	Full-time Accelerated
Course name	<input type="text" value="Mathematics degree"/> <small>Up to 120 characters</small>

Qualification

You can choose from the 3 qualification options that an accelerated course must lead to: **Bachelor Degree, Bachelor Degree with Honours and Integrated Masters Degree.** As shown below.

Add a Course

All fields are required unless marked Optional.

Course Details

Funding Level	Undergraduate
Study Mode	Full-time Accelerated
Course name	<input type="text" value="Mathematics degree"/> <small>Up to 120 characters</small>
Qualification	<div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px;"><p>- Select one -</p><p>- Select one -</p><p>Bachelor Degree</p><p>Bachelor Degree with Honours</p><p>Integrated Masters Degree</p></div>
Duration	

Duration

The duration options of one to 5 years (shown in the screen shots below) are available according to the eligibility guidelines.

The accelerated course should be studied over the length of an equivalent standard-length course minus one year. Your university or college does not need to provide a standard-length course in the same qualification and subject. In this context, an equivalent course is one that would lead to the same or equivalent academic award in the same or equivalent subject.

Qualification	Bachelor Degree
Duration	- Select one - - Select one - 1 Year 2 Years 3 Years 4 Years 5 Years 6 Years
UCAS code	

Course attributes

Add all the relevant course information as you would for your other courses.

Please note that you cannot select the **medicine/dentistry** attribute on accelerated courses as special provisions already exist for these students. If you try to select this attribute, you will see an error message and will not be able to save the course.

Fee

CMS will let you enter a course fee of up to 1.2 times your provider fee cap (rounded up or down to the nearest whole £5). If you enter a fee higher than 1.2 times your fee cap, you will see the following error message when trying to save the course:

Course Details

There was a problem submitting the form.

Please review the following:

- England Fee cannot be higher than 1.2 times the provider Fee cap rounded to the nearest £5 for Accelerated courses
- Northern Ireland Fee cannot be higher than 1.2 times the provider Fee cap rounded to the nearest £5 for Accelerated courses
- Scotland Fee cannot be higher than 1.2 times the provider Fee cap rounded to the nearest £5 for Accelerated courses
- Wales Fee cannot be higher than 1.2 times the provider Fee cap rounded to the nearest £5 for Accelerated courses

Term dates

You should add term dates according to the term date guidance (available on the [HEP Services website](#)) for full-time undergraduate courses. Long course loans are still available for accelerated courses, in addition to the standard rates of loan for living costs.

Shortened and compressed courses

Where you have a compressed* or shortened academic year, students will only be entitled to tuition and living cost support for the next year after a full 12-month period has passed.

If you are charging £6,000 for the first year of a full-time course starting in January, you can charge students a full £6,000 regardless of whether they are taking this first year over the full academic year (January to December) or in a compressed or shortened mode (for example, January to August). However, you cannot receive a further tuition fee loan for the students for the second year of that course until 1 January the following year.

Students starting full-time or part-time courses where the first year is compressed or shortened will be able to apply for the same up-front tuition fee loans as students completing a full academic year. However, they will not be able to apply for a second year of tuition fee support or living costs until after the end of the full academic year period, as defined by regulations.

A simplified way to look at this scenario is that unless a student is transferring to a new course or has withdrawn from one course to begin another, their academic year start will remain the same throughout their studies.

If you enter the term dates for a compressed or shortened academic year, you will need to confirm this before you can save the course details. You will be presented with a confirmation check box as shown below:

It is the responsibility of Higher Education Providers to confirm these dates are an accurate reflection of the teaching provided to students attending this course, and are aligned to the institutions academic schedule in accordance with [SLC Guidance](#).

Compressed year

You have entered term dates which include a compressed year. Term 3 start date can only be before **01 April** if this is a compressed course year.

Confirm these dates are accurate:

This course includes a compressed year

*A compressed academic year of study is not the same as an accelerated, compressed or fast-track course separately defined in the Education (Student Support) Regulations.

Entering term dates – Undergraduate courses only

English, Scottish and NI-domiciled students

You should ensure that term dates in CMS reflect the guidance above. Do not enter term dates that overlap in the same academic year.

Example 1

A student begins a 2.5 year degree programme with a shortened first academic year.

The student's study pattern:

Year 1 – January to July

Year 2 – September to July

Year 3 – September to July

This study pattern must be reflected in CMS as:

Year 1 – January to December

Year 2 – January to December

Year 3 – January to July

Example 2

A student begins a shortened foundation year before progressing onto the chosen degree pathway.

The student's study pattern:

Year 1 – September to December

Year 2 – January to December

Year 3 – January to December

Year 4 – January to December

This study pattern must be reflected in CMS as:

Year 1 – September to July

Year 2 – September to July

Year 3 – September to July

Year 4 – September to December

Where the final academic year is less than 15 weeks, you cannot receive more than £4,500 in tuition fee loan or grant. This fee reflects the shortened academic year.

For full-time courses, you should space the term dates throughout the academic year. This guarantees that students are paid at regular and timely intervals, while still respecting the liability period restrictions. This also ensures that the term lengths reflect the teaching provided to students, though we appreciate that this may not align to your true academic schedule.

Welsh-domiciled students

Where a Welsh-domiciled student starts a compressed or shortened academic year, the Welsh Government permits the student to access the next year's tuition and maintenance support from the point the next year of study begins.

Example 1

February start, compressed first year, annual tuition charge £8,000.

Liability point 1 (4 February):

- student's attendance confirmed by HEP
- £2,000 fee loan/grant paid to HEP in February

Liability point 2 (22 April):

- student's attendance confirmed by HEP
- £2,000 fee loan/grant paid to HEP in May

Liability point 3 (5 July):

- student's attendance confirmed by HEP
- £4,000 fee loan/grant paid to HEP in October

The student begins the second year of the course in September. 100% of the tuition fee and maintenance support will be available to the student from the start of the academic year (September).