

Relief Measure on Deferment of Loan Repayment Without Charging Interest during Deferment Period

To alleviate the financial burden of students with proven repayment difficulties, there has been relief measure on loan deferment (relief measure) to extend the total loan repayment period for a maximum of two years without charging interest during the approved deferment period. The details of the arrangement are illustrated below.

Application Period

The original application period is from 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2011. The application period has been extended to 31 July 2012.

Eligibility

Individual loan borrowers unable to repay their loans owing to **further full-time studies, financial hardship** or **serious illness** may make application to the Student Financial Assistance Agency (SFAA) for deferment. Applicants will benefit from the relief measure if their requests for deferment are subsequently approved.

Defaulters wishing to benefit from the abovesaid deferment measure have to approach SFAA for assistance in loan restructuring or deferment arrangements, and provide supporting documents to prove their economic difficulty, further studies or serious illness.

Application Procedures

The same set of existing procedures for deferment applications will apply to those made during the application period under the relief measure. If loan borrowers have difficulty in repaying their loan(s) for reason of further full-time studies, financial hardship or serious illness, they may apply for deferment of loan repayment. Applications will be considered on individual merits. Application forms in PDF format can be downloaded from SFAA's website (<http://www.sfaa.gov.hk/eng/public/index.htm>).

In making his application, an applicant has to submit the following documentary evidence in support of his application:-

On ground of Further Studies

- (i) a copy of the admission letter or other supporting document issued by the institution certifying the applicant's being a full-time student and his earliest expected date of graduation;
- (ii) a photocopy of the applicant's up-dated permanent student identity card with expiry date stated for his full-time studies; and
- (iii) receipt for payment of tuition fees.

On ground of Financial Hardship

- (i) a photocopy of all the bank account book(s) (including the applicant's payroll bank account) in his possession for the last 6 months (should indicate salary transactions);

If the applicant is unemployed, also submit: -

- (ii) a photocopy of termination letter issued by the applicant's former employer; and
- (iii) documentary proofs showing that the applicant has been looking for jobs in the last couple of weeks/ months, e.g. records of registration for jobs with the Labour Department.

On ground of Serious Illness

- (i) a photocopy of all the bank account book(s) in the applicant's possession for the last 6 months; and
- (ii) a copy of the medical certificate(s) issued by a hospital/ clinic/ registered medical practitioner certifying the applicant's health condition and the period of sick leave granted.

The application must be submitted together with documentary evidence to the Deferment Unit of this Agency by mail, email or fax **before the due date** of the instalment under application. SFAA's correspondence address and contact methods are as follows: -

*Student Financial Assistance Agency
(Attn: Deferment Unit)
12/F Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices
303 Cheung Sha Wan Road
Kowloon*

*Fax No.: (852) 3102 1256 / 3101 0442
Email: wg@sfaa.gov.hk
Enquiry Tel no.: 2150 6230*

The Agency may approach the applicant for further information upon receipt of his application, if necessary. All applications will be considered on individual merits.

If an application for deferment is subsequently approved, the applicant will be informed of the deferment period, interest-free period, date of resumption of repayment and the revised repayment schedule. The maximum interest-free deferment period is 2 years.

If the application for deferment is not approved, the applicant will be informed of the date of resumption of repayment.

Student Financial Assistance Agency
(Revised in July 2011)