

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 12TH JULY 2016**

Question

Given that the Minister is actively encouraging students to study to degree level on the Island and increasing the range of courses on offer here, for what reasons does he propose to reduce maintenance grants for on-Island degrees? Has any research been conducted by his department into the likely consequences of this decision for student numbers and, if not, why not?

Answer

The costs of doing a degree off island are greater than those on island so it is appropriate that the level of States support should reflect this. For example, a student studying in Jersey would not incur the same flight and other travel costs as a student on a UK course. Dependent students living at home are also likely to have lower living expenses. On-island students already benefit from lower tuition fees, which are up to £2,000 to £3,000 lower than in the UK.

The proposal would create greater parity in the financial support the States provides for islanders who are not currently in work. It also aims to target available funds to where they are needed most.