



Office of Student Financial Aid 2020- 2021 Appeal for Independent Status

Student Name: _____ UK Student ID: _____

Federal financial aid regulations dictate the criteria under which a student applies independently of parents for financial aid. Occasionally, however, extraordinary individual circumstances allow a student to file as an independent without meeting the FAFSA criteria. Examples of situations where dependency overrides may be approved include but are not limited to documented parental drug abuse, parent mental incapacity, physical or emotional abuse or neglect, and parental incarceration. Requests for dependency overrides are made on a case-by-case basis.

The circumstances listed below do not qualify as unusual and special circumstances and do not merit a dependency override:

- Your parents do not want to provide their information on your FAFSA; or
- Your parents refuse to contribute to your college expenses; or
- Your parents do not claim you as a dependent on their income taxes; or
- You do not live with your parents

Note: When you are not able to provide parental information on the FAFSA because the conditions above apply, you may file your FAFSA without parental information. In this instance, the only financial aid available to you through federal financial aid programs would be a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan. For consideration of a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan under this situation, you must sign this form and submit a letter explaining your circumstances indicating all situations that apply to you. Attach any supporting documentation. You may also consider a private educational loan at seeblue.com/fastchoice. You most likely will need a credit-worthy co-signer for approval.

Step 1: Complete a 2020-21 FAFSA at fafsa.gov. Submit your dependency appeal after submitting your FAFSA.

Step 2: Tax filing status

1) Did anyone claim you on their 2018 federal income tax return?

No

Yes- Person's Name: _____ Relationship to you: _____

2) Did anyone claim you on their 2019 federal income tax return?

No

Yes- Person's Name: _____ Relationship to you: _____

Step 3: Please attach the following documentation:

a) A typed personal statement explaining your request for an independent appeal.

- Describe your relationship with your biological and/or legally adopted parent(s).
- Include the last contact you had with each parent and the frequency of contact with each parent. Include specific dates that caused the separation from parent(s).
- Explain why you cannot provide parental information on the FAFSA.
- Make sure that your name, university ID, and signature are included in the letter.

b) Personal statement by a Third Party

- Attach a typed statement, signed and dated, from a public official who has knowledge of your unusual circumstances and knowledge concerning your relationship with your parents.

(e.g. teacher, high school guidance counselor, member of clergy, law enforcement representative, social worker, government agency, medical authority, or clerk of courts.)

- c) Personal statement by a family member or adult
 - Attach a typed statement, signed and dated, from a family member or adult who has knowledge of your unusual circumstances and knowledge concerning your relationship with your parents.
- d) Additional Supporting Documentation (If applicable)
 - Attached copies of any relevant supporting documentation. (e.g. court documents, legal documents, or police reports.)

Step 4: Signature

I certify that the information I submit with this appeal is true and correct. I also understand that the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships’ decision is final and cannot be appealed to the U.S. Department of Education. I understand that misrepresentations of facts in connection with this override, whenever discovered, may be enough, in and of itself, for cancellation and repayment of financial aid.

Student Signature

Date

UK Student ID

UK Email

Phone Number

Notification of Decision:

The student will be notified of the decision of the Appeals Committee approximately 2 weeks after all documents have been received. An email communication will be sent to your UK email address.

Note: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be filed annually. As such, the process of granting independent student override must be done on an annual basis. To remain as an independent student by exception basis, your circumstances must remain the same and an independent renewal form must be completed on an annual basis.

Please submit this form to your Financial Aid Counselor via email: To find your counselor’s email address: <https://www.uky.edu/financialaid/find-your-counselor> or mail to the address below:

University of Kentucky Office of Student Financial Aid
127 Funkhouser Building, Lexington, KY 40506-0054
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