

CONCLUSION 254/08  
APPROVED BY THE HEADS OF ADMINISTRATION AT THEIR 251st MEETING ON 14  
FEBRUARY 2008.

Subject: Education allowance within the meaning of Article 3(1) of Annex VII to the Staff Regulations - Application of the concept of regular full-time attendance at an educational establishment to distance learning

Clarification on applying Conclusion 237/05 is needed in cases where studies are undertaken via distance learning and do not require attendance at an educational establishment. The Heads of Administration concluded that distance learning does not give rise to an entitlement to the education allowance unless:

- the studies are part of a complete course, i.e. their purpose is recognised by the State;
- proof is provided of the child's active participation in the course, and in particular of participation in examinations and/or other end-of-year tests;
- proof is provided that the child continues to fulfil the conditions for being recognised as a dependent child within the meaning of Article 2 of Annex VII to the Staff Regulations and that the income thresholds laid down in conclusion 223/04 have not been exceeded.

Since distance learning by definition does not require attendance at lessons, payments will only be made up to the ceiling of a single education allowance.

This conclusion shall apply from 1 March 2008.

By the Heads of Administration