



Childcare provision

Some colleges and universities provide childcare facilities or have an affiliated nursery on campus while others have an arrangement with a local nursery. It is important that you are familiar with what your organisation can offer and whether any financial support might be available to students to meet the costs. The following notes intend to give you some information about support available to parents, in particular financial assistance. For further information on registered childcare in your area visit the Scottish Childcare website (www.scottishchildcare.gov.uk).

EXTRA HELP FOR STUDENTS WITH CHILDREN

Students in full-time further or higher education with dependent children may be able to get extra financial help.

FURTHER EDUCATION

- Each college has a **Childcare Fund** which is used to help pay for registered childcare, and one of the priority groups for childcare support are lone parent students.
- This support is additional to bursary funding, and applies to registered childcare only. Some colleges, however, may offer different methods of childcare support such as on-site nurseries, or childcare vouchers.
- Students can get application forms and guidance notes directly from the college. Students must apply for their bursary through their college which will also administer the payment and deal with any problems.

HIGHER EDUCATION

- This is available to *full-time* students only.

- The **Lone Parent's Grant** is specifically for widowed, divorced, separated or single students bringing up children. If students have at least one dependent child, a yearly grant of £1,240 is available.
- If they receive the Lone Parent's Grant they can also apply for a **Lone Parent's Childcare Grant** of up to £1,155 per year for their formal childcare costs such as childminders, after-school clubs and providers of day care and education. If their children are aged 8 or under, the childcare provider must be registered with the local authority.
- Students can also benefit from the **Higher Education Childcare Fund**, particularly if they're a lone parent or mature student. Support from this fund is discretionary, administered by the institutions themselves, and is only available to meet the costs of formal/registered childcare.

OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING

- For lone parents working less than 16 hours a week, or not at all, and their youngest child is under 16 years old, then they might be interested in the **New Deal for Lone Parents (NDLP)**.
- Help with childcare costs are available while they are on New Deal for Lone Parents.
- This specially designed programme helps lone parents who want to work find a job that suits their lifestyle. A trained personal adviser will support and advise them to:
 - ◇ find education opportunities;
 - ◇ find and organise childcare provision;
 - ◇ apply for suitable jobs.



Benefits

- Although most full-time students are not entitled to social security benefits, certain students may be eligible; including single parents.
- If they are currently eligible for certain income-related benefits they may still be entitled to them when they become a part-time or distance-learning student.

Tax Credits

- Students with dependent children are entitled to claim **Child Tax Credit** from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). Extra amounts are available for those who are caring for disabled children. Those who are receiving the maximum amount of Child Tax Credit are entitled to free school meals for their children (but not if they or their partner receive Working Tax Credit).
- If they have dependent children and work 16 hours or more a week they could also be eligible for **Working Tax Credit**, which is designed to make work pay for those on lower incomes.

Housing Benefit

- This helps with the cost of rent if students are on a low income and students with dependent children may be able to claim.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

- What childcare provision is available in your area?
- What are the costs involved?
- How can students apply for financial support?

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Local information
- [Learn Direct – Lone parents](#)
- [Learn Direct – help with childcare](#)
- [Scottish Executive](#)