



Offering help, information and advice

Funding Available

Student funding in terms of tuition fees and living allowances is a complex and often confusing area. Before students confirm attendance on a particular course, they should ensure that they have made appropriate financial arrangements, so that they do not have to cope with the anxiety and stress of money problems. It's is probably one of the main concerns of potential students and they will expect you to be able to inform them of any sources of funding available to them. These notes intent to give you some information about possible sources of funding for potential students.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

Funding available depends on many factors, in particular the level of study the student is intending to take:

1. Community-based study
2. Further education
3. Higher education
4. Learning at work
5. Other Sources of financial support
6. Benefits

1. COMMUNITY-BASED PROVISION

As a general rule, there is no funding available to individuals studying community-based courses. The learning provider pays for some of the courses though so there may not be any cost to the student.

2. FURTHER EDUCATION (FE)

FULL TIME STUDENTS

Fees

- No eligible full-time students meeting the appropriate residence criteria will be required to pay fees.

- To receive financial support students must meet the eligibility criteria. They must have been residents in the UK, Channel Islands or the Isle of Man for the 3 years immediately before the start of the course.

Living costs

Students could receive a non-repayable bursary up to £84.69 a week, depending on age, family circumstances and income. To be eligible, the student must meet certain residence criteria (same as above).

Age	Income	Living arrangements		Self-support
		Parental home	Away	
Under 18*	£19,350	NIL	£33,66	N/A
18-25	£23,085	£67.01	£84.69	N/A
Self-support	£19,630	N/A	N/A	£84.69

* In addition, school leavers going to college may also be eligible for an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

Students may also be eligible for an additional allowance to cover certain study costs such as:

- Items essential to the course
- Items required for health and safety
- Mandatory study trips

Help for dependants

- Students may be able to apply for a **Dependant's Allowance** of £48.27 per week if they have financial, care or legal responsibility for an adult. This is also dependant on their income, and family circumstances and dependent's income will be taken into account.
- Some colleges have **childcare funds** that may be available to students. The priority



groups for childcare are lone parents students and mature students. This is additional to bursary funding and is available to meet the costs of registered childcare only.

Help for disabled students

Full time students who may incur additional costs because of their disability may be eligible for an **Additional Support Needs for Learning Allowance**. This covers additional travel and study help to students with disabilities on top of other disability grants and benefits and is not means-tested.

Travel costs

Students can apply for help with travel expenses which arise from attending an approved course of study, depending on eligibility criteria laid out by the college. Additional travel expenses may also be available for students with dependent children or with additional support needs.

Additional help

Some colleges and universities also operate a **Hardship Fund** which students can apply to if they are facing financial difficulties. These are specifically targeted to help students who have financial difficulties that might prevent them gaining access to education or continuing their course.

PART-TIME STUDENTS

Fees

- Most part-time and distance learning students have to pay tuition fees. However, they can have their fees waived under a fee waiver scheme which is open to low income families or those on benefit.
- Students can also use an Individual Learning Account (ILA) to pay for course fees.

Living costs

- Maintenance bursaries are not usually available for part-time students.

- If the student is out of work and studying part-time they may still qualify for a Jobseeker's Allowance, as long as the course is less than 21h a week and they're still available for work.

Help for dependants

Part-time students are also one of the priority groups for childcare support, but this must be used for registered users.

Additional help

- Students may also be eligible for support towards study and travel expenses, as well as the Additional Support Needs for Learning Allowance.
- Part-time students may also be able to get some financial help from hardship funds.

3. HIGHER EDUCATION (HE)

FULL TIME STUDENTS

Fees

- Most full-time students do not have to pay for the cost of their course. Students can apply to the Students Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) for financial support.
- Tuition fees are charged to cover the cost of their studies and will be different depending on the course they choose. The support received depends on when students start, where they are studying, the course they are studying and their personal circumstances.
- To receive financial support students must meet the eligibility criteria. They must have been residents in the UK, Channel Islands or the Isle of Man for the 3 years immediately before the start of the course.

Living costs

- The main source of help with living expenses is through an income-assessed **student loan**. The maximum loan is £4,400 for students living away from home and £3,485 for those living at home. An



Offering help, information and advice

additional loan of £575 is available to young students from families with an income below £20,695.

- Some students under 25 may qualify for a means-tested non-repayable grant – **Young Student’s Bursary**. This can be up to £2,510 a year instead of part of the loan, so it reduces the amount of loan the student needs to take out. The maximum of £2,510 a year is paid if the student’s income is under £18,360 a year.

Support available for 2007/08

Income level	Students living in	
	Halls of residence	Parental home
Max support	£4,975	£4,060
£20,000	£4,542	£3,627
£30,000	£3,586	£2,672
£40,000	£2,474	£1,561
Min support	£870	£575

Help for dependants

- These are not loans and do not need to be paid back.
- Students can claim the income-assessed **Adult Dependants’ Grant** if they’re married or in a Civic partnership. The maximum amount is £2,510. If they get married after the start of the course, they can claim from the date of marriage. They cannot claim if their husband or wife also receives student support.
- There are special provisions for widowed, divorced, separated or single parents bringing up children. If they have at least one dependent child, they can claim a **Lone parents’ grant** of £1,240.
- If students receive the Lone Parent’s Grant they can claim for an **Additional Childcare Grant for Lone Parents** and get extra help of up to £1,155 per year to help pay their formal childcare costs.

Formal childcare includes childminders, after school clubs and providers of day care and education. If their children are aged eight or under, the childcare provider must be registered with the local authority.

- Students can also apply to your institution for assistance from the **Higher Education Childcare Fund**. The priority groups for this childcare support are lone parents and mature students. Support from this fund is discretionary, administered by the institutions themselves, and is only available to meet the costs of registered childcare.

Travel costs

Students can apply for help with the cost of daily travel to their college or university. If they are living away from home, they may claim three return journeys each session to and from their term-time residence, in addition to term-time travel to and from your institution. There is a maximum amount payable to eligible students and they are required to pay the first £155 of the yearly total. SAAS will only allow the most economical fares available for the type of transport they use.

Help for disabled students

Students who incur additional expenditure whilst undertaking their course because of their disability can apply for additional support in the form of the **Disabled Students’ Allowance (DSA)**. The maximum amount available is set at the time of their initial claim and the sum available is for the duration, not each year, of your course. Four allowances comprise the DSA, all of which are subject to maximum amounts:

- The Basic Allowance is an annual allowance of up to £1,640 that students may claim towards general expenditure such as tapes, Braille paper, radio aids, medically certified special dietary needs and small items of equipment.



Offering help, information and advice

- Special Equipment Allowance is an allowance of up to £4,905 for the purchase of major items of equipment, for example, a word processor or a portable loop.
- Non-medical Personal Help is an annual allowance of up to £12,420 for non-medical personal help, for example, readers for the blind, or note takers.
- Help with the cost of travel may also be provided if you incur additional transport costs as a result of your disability.

Additional help

- Students who are experiencing particular financial difficulty can apply for assistance from their institution's **Hardship Funds**. These funds are specifically targeted to help students who have financial difficulties. Each college or university is responsible for deciding who gets help and how much. Students must have taken out their full student loan entitlement before you can receive this help.
- A **Vacation Grant for Care Leavers** of up to £100 a week is available to help students, who were previously in care, with accommodation costs. If they were in care immediately before they started their course, or were in care when they finished their compulsory schooling, they may be eligible for this grant.

PART-TIME STUDENTS

Fees

- Most students studying part-time or on distance learning courses have to pay tuition fees. However, they can have their fees waived under a fee waiver scheme which is open to low income families or those on benefit.
- Students can also use an Individual Learning Account (ILA) to pay for course fees.

Living costs

Students may be eligible for a £500 student loan provided they are studying less than 50% of a full-time course. The loan is means-tested:

- If the student is single, their income must be less than £15,367. This threshold increases by £2,000 if they have one child and £1,000 for each other children.
- If the student is married or is in a Civil Partnership, their income must be less than £17,367. This threshold increases by £2000 if they have one child and £1,000 for each other children.

Help for disabled students

If they are a distance-learning student or studying part-time and the course is equivalent to at least 50% of a full-time course, they may also be eligible for the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) which is not income assessed. See above for further details.

Additional help

If they are experiencing particular financial difficulty they can apply for help from your institution's **Hardship Funds**. This can include help with childcare, housing and travel costs.

4. LEARNING AT WORK

If the student is working, one way to ensure an income during their training is to undertake work-based learning. At the very least they'll get a training allowance, and very often they'll get a full wage at the going rate for the job they're doing. This includes:

Modern Apprenticeships

These are aimed at people aged 16 or above who want to learn while in a job and gain a qualification at SVQ level 3 or higher. They often combine practical training with off-the-job learning and the student will get paid a wage while they learn. They won't be asked



to pay anything towards their training and they'll be employed for the duration of the training.

Skillseekers

Financial support for vocational training through Skillseekers is available to young people aged 16-19. Similar to Modern Apprentices, they undertake training while studying for a qualification, usually at SVQ level 2. The majority of Skillseekers are employed and receive a wage from their employer. Any Skillseekers that are not employed, on starting, receive an allowance for either the duration of their training or until they become employed.

5. OTHER SOURCES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

This list is not exhaustive; it is simply a guide to some of the support available. The Scottish Executive has produced a useful guide – [Helping you meet the cost of learning](#) – as well as a number of leaflets.

Possible sources of funding include:

- Individual Learning Account (ILA)
- Educational trusts and scholarships
- Sponsorships
- Career Development Loans (CDL)
- Graduate Endowment

Individual Learning Accounts (ILAs)

ILA Scotland is a Scottish Executive scheme that can help with the cost of course fees.

- Students can receive up to £200 a year towards the cost of a course if they earn £18,000 or less a year or are on benefits.
- If they earn more than £18,000 a year, they can get up to £100 a year.

The money is not a loan so students don't have to pay it back, but they will need to make a £10 contribution towards the course. Standard full time courses are not eligible, but there's a wide range of part-time course to choose from (www.ilascotland.org.uk).

Educational trusts and scholarships

- If the student is not eligible to receive support from public funds, they may find it useful to check the Directory of Grant Making Trusts (published by the Charities Aid Foundation), the Grants Register (published by Palgrave MacMillan), or the Educational Grants Advisory Service at www.egas-online.org.
- SAAS also maintain a Register of Educational Endowments containing information on various Scottish trusts. If the student submits an enquiry form, SAAS will search the register and send them the names and addresses of any trusts to which they may be able to apply for help. They can only get help from a trust if they meet the eligibility conditions. These vary from trust to trust, and only the trustees can decide if you are eligible. For instance, conditions can relate to:
 - ◇ where they live or were born;
 - ◇ what schools they went to;
 - ◇ their age;
 - ◇ the course they are taking; and
 - ◇ the college or university they go to.
- They may also want to visit the website at www.scholarship-search.org.uk to look at the database of undergraduate and postgraduate scholarship awards that are offered by academic institutions, commercial organisations and charitable trusts.

Sponsorships

Many industrial organisations and some government departments have schemes (usually competitive) for supporting students. They may be able to get details of these from the local Jobcentre.

Career Development Loans (CDLs)

- CDLs are a deferred repayment commercial bank loans available to cover a wide range of vocational training or



education for adults. The government supports these loans by paying the interest on the loan while the individual is undertaking their training.

- Loans of between £300 and £8,000 can be borrowed to support any course of learning that will help the students in their career.
- In general, they can't use a CDL to pay for anything that is being funded by another source. So students in receipt of a mandatory grant and/or student loan are ineligible to apply for a CDL, as it should not be used to fund expenses that are already covered by other awards.

Graduate Endowment

- The Graduate Endowment is a fixed amount that some graduates will be liable to pay after they have completed their degree. The funds raised from the Graduate Endowment are used to provide student support, including bursaries, for future generations of students.
- For students starting in 2006-07 the amount was £2,289, and for all new liable students in 2007-08 the amount will increase by the rate of inflation.
- Some graduates are exempt from making contributions. They will not be liable to pay the Endowment, for example, if they:
 - ◇ are a mature student
 - ◇ are a lone parent entitled to a Lone Parent's Grant;
 - ◇ are a disabled student eligible for support through the Disabled Students' Allowance scheme;
 - ◇ are undertaking an HNC/D course;
 - ◇ take less than two years to complete their degree course immediately after completing an HNC/D;
 - ◇ take less than three years to complete their degree course in all other circumstances;
 - ◇ take a degree course in nursing or midwifery or any degree course that attracts a Health bursary in each year;

- ◇ fail to meet the requirements to be accredited with a degree;
- ◇ have studied for a degree in publicly funded Higher Education before;
- ◇ study for your degree outwith Scotland; or
- ◇ study part-time.

6. BENEFITS

Although most students are not entitled to social security benefits, certain students, including young people without parental support, single parents and disabled students, may be eligible. Students wanting to take a course of full-time education should always ask at the local Jobcentre Plus office (www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/JCP) or local Citizens Advice Bureau (www.adviceguide.org.uk/scotland) how this will affect their benefits. Additional assistance they receive for travel and study expenses should not affect your benefits.

Tax Credits

Students and their families could be entitled to more money through tax credits, for example the Child Tax credit and Working tax credit (www.hmrc.gov.uk/students).

- Students with dependent children are entitled to claim **Child Tax Credit** from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). Extra amounts are available for those 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 receives Working Tax Credit.
- Disabled students or students with children who work sixteen hours or more a week could also be eligible for **Working Tax Credit**, which is designed to make work pay for those on lower incomes. Students over 25 working at least 30 hours a week on a low income may also be entitled to Working Tax Credit.



Housing Benefit

This helps students with the cost of rent if they're on a low income. Full-time students in further education under 19 (sometimes 20) are usually eligible to claim. If they're a full-time student not in this group they wouldn't normally qualify for help but they may be able to get this support if they're disabled or have children.

Council Tax

Most full-time students are exempt from paying council tax. However, they're not exempt if they their own home and share with other adults who are not students. In this case, they may be entitled to a second adult rebate or council tax benefit.

Health Benefits

Full-time students under 19 may qualify for a range of free medical benefits, including free NHS prescriptions, dental treatment, and glasses. Otherwise, if they're on a low income or a qualifying benefit, they may also qualify.

Training for Work

For students aged over 25 who have been unemployed for longer than six months or if they are aged 18-24 and on Incapacity Benefit or Income Support, they may be referred to a Training for Work programme. On this voluntary programme which provides vocational training participants can receive an additional £10 allowance on top of their benefit payment. All training costs are provided free and they may also be helped with travel costs.

New Deal

- For unemployed students aged 18 to 24, Jobcentre Plus offers the New Deal for

Young People, to help them into employment. This New Deal can support them in a job placement with training, or in full-time education or training leading to a job-related skill. Support can include paying course fees and assisting with the cost of books, equipment and travel.

- There are other New Deals to help them into employment which they may qualify if they are aged 25 and over, aged 50 plus, if they are a lone parent or have a disability. These special programmes can help with things like childcare and disability aids. To find out more visit www.newdeal.gov.uk.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Local information
- [Scottish Executive Guide to funding](#)
- [Scottish Exec -Dependent children](#)
- [Scottish Exec - Postgraduate students](#)
- [Scottish Exec - Migrant workers](#)
- [Scottish Exec - Disabled students](#)
- [Scottish Exec - Adult learners](#)
- [Scottish Exec - Domiciled students](#)
- [Scottish Exec - Guide for advisers](#)
- [Scottish Exec - Part-time students](#)
- [Scottish Exec - Older learners](#)
- [Scottish Exec - What's new?](#)
- [Learn Direct – funding](#)
- [EGAS](#)
- [New Deal](#)
- [HM Revenue and Customs \(HMRC\)](#)
- [Jobcentre Plus office](#)
- [Citizens Advice Bureau](#)
- [ILA Scotland](#)