

FACTSHEET 14

Paying for childcare - Help for students

If you are a parent who wants to study or train, you may be able to get help paying for childcare while you study.

Higher Education (advanced level eg HNC level, SCQF Level 7 or above)

Support for Higher Education is mainly loan-based, with a number of income-assessed grants for specific groups of students. Specific help is available for students with dependant children:

- Lone Parent's Grant - special provisions for widowed, divorced, separated or single students bringing up children.
- Childcare Fund - Every college or university in Scotland has a childcare fund that you can apply to for help towards the cost of registered or formal childcare. Support is discretionary and administered by the institutions themselves and is only available to meet the costs of formal/registered childcare. You should contact your university or college for more information.
- Discretionary Fund - Every college or university has a fund that you can apply to if you are not able to enter higher education for financial reasons or have financial difficulties while you study. To be eligible to apply for help, you must take out the maximum student loan available to you. The student support services team at your college or university is responsible for deciding who they make payments to and for how much.

Other sources of funding

- Individual Training Accounts (ITA) - ITA is a scheme that can help pay for a wide range of training with a variety of approved training providers. If you are over 16, live in Scotland and earn £22,000 or less per year or are on qualifying benefits, then you may qualify for

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up to £200 each year towards the cost of approved training courses. For full eligibility rules and more information go to <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/learn-and-train/sds-individual-training-accounts-ita>

Your student support advisor should be able to help you find out more about help with childcare costs from your college or university.

Finding out about childcare provided by your college or university

You should ask your student welfare advisor to tell you what your childcare options are and what facilities and support your college or university can offer to help students who are parents.

Some colleges and universities provide childcare services to support student parents. These schemes may include:

- Nurseries
- Crèches
- Out of school schemes
- Holiday playschemes
- Childminding networks

You should ask:

- What age groups the service caters for
- Whether there will be a vacancy when you need the childcare place
- How long the waiting list is
- How much the childcare place will cost
- Whether assistance is available towards the cost of the childcare place
- What hours the service is open and whether that matches your time of study

If the childcare services at your college or university are full, ask about financial help to contribute to the cost of the other childcare services.

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Finding out more

- Ask your student support advisor or tutor for information about childcare while you study or train
- Don't wait until you are on your course; find out in advance what support and facilities may be available
- For those entering Higher Education, information on eligibility and how to apply for support is available from the Student Awards Agency for Scotland. Their website is www.saas.gov.uk
- For further information and for the full guide "Funding Guide for Students 17/18" http://www.saas.gov.uk/_forms/funding_guide.pdf

Source: Funding Guide for Students 17/18 by Student Awards Agency Scotland

For information about childcare available in Dundee City go to www.families.scot or contact DUNDEE CHILDREN & FAMILIES INFORMATION SERVICE on cis@dundeecity.gov.uk or telephone 01382 433900.

Information is available on the local Dundee area of the national website where alongside details about childcare services you can also access our online Directory for further advice, groups, activities and other services for families available locally and nationally

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