

# Student Funding

## MINI GUIDE

Childcare Funding  
2021/2022

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If you are coming to study in the 2021/22 session, and you require assistance with childcare costs, this guide aims to answer common question that many students have when applying to Forth Valley College.

## What is the Childcare Fund?

- This fund is to provide students with assistance towards childcare costs while they are studying.

## Who can apply?

You can apply for the Childcare Fund if you are a full time Further Education (FE), Part-time FE or Higher Education (HE) student. The fund is accessible to the following types of students:

- Lone Parents
- Two-parent families where the students partner is in employment
- Two parent families where both parents are students (childcare will only be provided when both parents attend college on the same day(s))

## How do I know if I am eligible?

### **Further Education Full and Part-time students**

All students are eligible to apply for this fund if they meet the residency criteria and are past the compulsory school leaving age. You can still receive assistance with childcare costs even if you are not eligible to receive bursary/travel funding due to previous studies/funding.

### **Higher Education students**

To access this fund you must apply for the maximum funding available to you from the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) and from the Student Loans Company (SLC). This includes the following:

- You **must** be eligible to receive your tuition fees from SAAS. If you do not receive payment of your fees from SAAS you **cannot** apply for this fund.
- You must have applied for a student bursary if you are eligible to receive this.
- You must have applied for the maximum **income assessed** student loan.
- If you are a lone parent and you must apply for the Lone Parent Grant (LPG) if you are eligible to receive this.

## Is there any additional assistance for lone parents?

**Lone Parent Childcare Grant (LPCG)** - this is a grant of £1,215 that all lone parents (FE, HE and FE part-time students) are eligible to apply for if they have registered childcare costs. This allowance will be included in your award from the childcare fund and will be administered by the College and paid directly to your childcare provider.

You may still receive this grant towards childcare costs even if you are not eligible to receive any further assistance from our childcare fund.

**Lone Parent Grant (LPG)** - this grant is for lone parents who are completing a HE level course. You may be eligible to receive a non-repayable grant of £1,305 which you must apply for before accessing the childcare fund. You should apply for this from SAAS.

## The Assessment

### How is my childcare award assessed?

- You will be awarded a percentage of assistance towards your costs which ranges from 25% to 100% depending on your circumstances/household income (see table on page 3)
- If you are a lone parent you will automatically receive the maximum assistance towards your childcare costs
- If you live with a partner who is in employment your award will be assessed based on their annual income
- If you live with a partner who is currently unemployed we are unable to provide you with any assistance towards any childcare costs

### What assistance will I receive financially?

As well as your circumstances and household income your award will be assessed on the type of childcare assistance you require.

Please view the following tables relevant to the type of childcare you will be using and refer to the annual income table to identify what percentage of the costs you could be awarded:

Costs can be covered at the hourly rates, shown in the following table, to a maximum of £51 per day (per child).

*Continued on next page.*

### Based on partner's income we will pay -

Lone Parent	100%
£0 - £24,999	100%
£24,999 - £29,999	75%
£30,000 - £39,999	50%
£40,000 +	25%

### Maximum rates we can pay

Type of Childcare	Rate Type	Hourly Rate
Childminder	Hourly day rate	£6.50
Childminder	Out of School Club rate	£6.50
Nursery Pre-school	Hourly	£6.50
	Daily	£51.00
	Half day	£30.00
Before and After School	Hourly	£7.50
Care (Non-childminder)	AM session	£8.00
	PM session	£15.00

*\* If there is an occasion when your child's school is closed and you require full day childcare that your childcare provider can accommodate, please contact Student Funding and we will advise if we can cover these costs. If you do not receive approval in advance, we will not cover these costs.*

### How will this be paid?

If you are awarded assistance with childcare costs this will be paid directly to your childcare provider, in arrears on a bi-weekly basis. Your childcare provider will submit an initial Weekly claim form and this will be used to set up a payment and the provider will need to submit an Ad Hok claim form, for any additional days or changes.

### Attendance and Engagement

You are expected to achieve **positive engagement** for each claim period. If you are not deemed as engaging by your department payments will not be made for this payment period, you will be expected to pay these expenses directly to your childcare provider.

If you are absent for a period 3-4 weeks, your funding payments will be put on hold and will not be payable until you return to your studies full time. Your progression and attainment will also impact funding payments.

## What can my Childcare Provider claim for?

### College Hours

Your childcare provider can claim for days/times when you are timetabled to be at college. This includes your core hours, any mandatory work placements (which must be recorded) and any times you have exams outwith your normal timetable. We will require evidence of this from teaching departments.

### Travel Costs

The College will cover childcare costs to allow you to travel to and from college however this will be up to a maximum of one hour before your first class and one hour after your final class. If you require any further travel time you will be expected to pay these additional costs directly to your provider.

## What can my Childcare Provider not claim for?

### Free Nursery Hours (600 hours of free childcare)

If your child is eligible to receive free childcare hours funded by the Scottish Government you should be making use of this before seeking assistance from the College. If you are using a childcare provider who does not receive this funding a deduction of 3 hours and 10 minutes will be made per day to your award and you will be expected to pay this to your provider directly.

If your child is attending a nursery for their free hours and you are additionally using a childminder/another provider please note we are unable to pay them for the time your child is at nursery. If it is in your contract you have signed with your provider that they would charge for this time you will be responsible to pay these costs directly to your provider.

*Please note that all children age 3+ and some 2 year olds are eligible for free childcare. For more information please refer to page 5.*

### College Holidays

The College will not provide assistance with childcare costs during extended college holiday periods. The college holidays we are unable to cover this session are:

- 11th October to 16th October 2021
- 22nd December 2021 to 4th January 2022 (Christmas Holiday)
- Monday 14th February 2022 to Friday 18th February 2022
- Monday 4th April 2022 to Tuesday 19th April 2022

If your childcare provider requires payment during these times you will be responsible for paying this directly to your provider.

**Additional Note** - the College will not provide any payment towards registration fees, induction days, drinks/snacks or any other similar additional costs.

## More information for parents who have access to free childcare/nursery hours

As mentioned earlier in the guide, if your child is eligible for free nursery sessions funded by the Scottish Government you are expected to be making use of this before seeking assistance from the College.

### **Children aged 3-5**

All children aged 3-5 are eligible for 1140 hours per year of free early learning and childcare from the first term after their third birthday. The increased hours began August 2021. These hours can be used at council nurseries, a large number of private nurseries and also via some child-minders. When applying for the childcare fund the College would expect you to be using these free hours before seeking further assistance with childcare costs therefore it is important that you clarify this with your provider prior to starting your course.

### **Children aged 2**

Since August 2020 some 2 year olds are now also eligible to receive 1140 hours of free childcare from the first term after their second birthday. The number of children eligible to receive this funding extended from August 2015. If your child is eligible to receive these free hours you would be expected to be making use of these before seeking further assistance from the College. Your child may be eligible if you are in receipt of any qualifying benefits:

- Income support
- Jobseekers allowance (income based)
- Employment and Support Allowance (income based)
- Incapacity or Severe Disablement Allowance
- State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit, and your income is less than £16,105
- Both maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum Working Tax Credit and your income is under £6,420
- Universal Credit and your household income, from working, is £610 a month, or less.

**Please note your child will also be eligible for 1140 free hours, if they have turned 2, and any of the below are applicable:**

- Been looked after by a local council
- Been subject to a kinship care order
- Been subject to a guardianship order

You can find more information about this on the Scottish Government website:

[www.earlylearningandchildcare.scot](http://www.earlylearningandchildcare.scot)

# Contacts

If you have any queries regarding your child's eligibility for free hours or would like to apply please contact your local nursery or your local council. You will also find more information via your local council website. These are some of the local council contacts:

## **Clackmannanshire Council**

Telephone: (01259) 452499

Email: [education@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:education@clacks.gov.uk)

Website: <http://www.clacks.gov.uk>

## **Falkirk Council**

Telephone: (01324) 506645

Email: [educ.2yearolds@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:educ.2yearolds@falkirk.gov.uk)

Website: <http://www.falkirk.gov.uk>

## **Stirling Council**

Telephone: (01786) 233206

Email: [childcare@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:childcare@stirling.gov.uk)

Website: <http://my.stirling.gov.uk/home>

# Student Funding Contact Details

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Call: (01324) 403000

Email: [funding@forthvalley.ac.uk](mailto:funding@forthvalley.ac.uk)

Visit: [www.forthvalley.ac.uk](http://www.forthvalley.ac.uk)

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