

Childcare Funding Guide

Academic Year
2024-25

MAKING
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Forth
Valley
College



CHILDCARE FUNDING

GUIDE ACADEMIC SESSION 2024-25

While studying, students can apply for funding to assist with eligible Childcare costs. General information about childcare funding can be found in the Student Funding Guide 2024-25. This guide answers common questions about childcare funding. If you have any further questions, please contact Student Funding directly.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR CHILDCARE FUNDING?

You can apply for funding from the childcare fund if you are a **full-time student** (both Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE) courses), or a student on certain part-time FE courses.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M ELIGIBLE?

FE Students

To be eligible, FE students must meet the **residency** criteria and be beyond the **statutory school leaving age**. You may still be able to receive assistance with childcare costs even if you do not qualify for bursary funding due to your previous duration of support. Contact Student Funding for more information on this.

HE Students

To be eligible, HE students must have applied for the **maximum funding** available to them from SAAS and the Student Loans Company.

You must be eligible to receive your tuition fees from SAAS. If SAAS are not paying your tuition fees, you cannot access childcare funding from the college. You must also have applied for all bursaries and grants applicable to you and have been awarded the maximum means-assessed loan from the Student Loan Company.

IS THERE ANY ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR LONE PARENTS?

There is the **Lone Parents' Childcare Grant (LPCG)** which is up to £1,215 for formal childcare costs. The college draws this funding on your behalf so you don't need to do anything to get this funding. Even if you are not eligible for funds from the college childcare fund, you may still be able to access the LPCG.

The **Lone Parents' Grant** is also available for HE students and this is applied for through SAAS. The Lone Parents' grant is an award of up to £1,305 for lone parents and is paid directly to the student. Or, you may receive extra allowances against your assessable income. Contact SAAS for more information.

WHAT ARE 'ELIGIBLE CHILDCARE COSTS'?

Childcare funding is means-assessed (see the **Student Funding Guide 2024-25**) and you can be awarded a percentage of their eligible childcare costs for each week you are in college.

Students who have a partner who is at home (i.e. not in work or education) during their timetabled classes, will not be awarded childcare funding.

Costs incurred for the provision of childcare for timetabled classes and mandatory work placement (plus 1 hour's travel to college and then from college each day) are eligible for assessment for funding. **You must make sure your provider has a copy of your timetable.**

Please note that certain childcare providers will ask for payment during College holiday periods and for days or times when you are not timetabled to be in College. The College will **not** pay for these days or times.

WHAT ARE THE CHILDCARE AWARD RATES?

Childcare funding is means-assessed based on the student's income and their partner, where relevant. The means-assessment determines what percentage of the eligible costs (as described above) is payable.

The table below shows the breakdown of the gross household income brackets and the percentage of eligible costs which are payable.

Gross Assessable Household Income	Percentage of Eligible Childcare Costs Payable
£0 - £24,999	100%
£25,000 - £29,999	75%
£30,000 - £39,999	50%
£40,000+	25%
Lone Parent	100%

The student can claim childcare costs incurred with any registered Childcare Provider. This means they must be registered with the **Care Inspectorate**.

The rates charged by Childcare Providers can vary. As the Childcare Fund is a cash limited fund, the college has fee caps. If the chosen Childcare Provider charges more than the cap, the college will only award funding up to the cap. Any additional balance still due is the responsibility of the student.

Type of Childcare Provision	Provider Fee Type	Maximum Fee Cap
Childminder	Hourly Rate	£7.00/hour
Nursery	Day Session	£60.00/session
Nursery	Half Session	£36.00/session
Before and After School Care (Non-Childminder)	Breakfast Club	£9.50/session
Before and After School Care (Non-Childminder)	After-School Club	£16.50/session
Out of School Session	Holiday Club	£36.00/session

WHAT ABOUT FUNDED EARLY LEARNING AND 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. You can [visit the government website](#) to find more information about free hours.

If you are using a childcare provider who does not receive this funding or you are not claiming this funding when you are eligible for it, a deduction of 6 hours 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 to 5 and some 2-year-olds are eligible for free childcare.

IS THERE ANY CHILDCARE THE COLLEGE WILL NOT FUND?

Unregistered Childcare Providers

The college will only fund childcare which is provided by a childcare provider who is registered with the Care Inspectorate. Informal childcare, or childcare provided by family members is not fundable.

Holiday Periods

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:

- 14 October to 18 October 2024
- 23 December 2024 to 3 January 2025
- 10 February 2025 to 14 February 2025
- 7 April 2025 to 18 April 2025

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

Additional Costs

The College will not provide any payment towards registration fees, induction days, drinks/snacks, or any other similar additional costs.

HOW WILL THIS BE PAID?

Awarded childcare costs will be paid directly to your childcare provider, 2 weeks in arrears.

Your childcare provider will submit completed paperwork to us which will be used to set up a weekly payment amount.

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 may not cover these costs.

For any additional days or changes, the provider can submit an ad hoc claim form.

WILL MY CHILDCARE PROVIDER BE NOTIFIED HOW CHILDCARE IS FUNDED?

Your childcare provider will be sent details of the funding award as soon as the award is finalised. They will also be sent a link to all the relevant information and paperwork required.

If your Childcare Provider would like more information about Childcare Funding and what the process is for providers, there is a **Childcare Funding Provider Handbook** which you can [download from our website](#).

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