

Financial Assistance for Learners

2010/11

If you have any difficulty reading or understanding the information in this document please ask staff in the Support Office for assistance.

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Further Education Courses

Discretionary Learning Support Funds (DLSF)

What is it?

Discretionary Learning Support Funds are available to help full-time and part-time students who are finding it difficult to commence or continue their study through financial hardship.

For more information please see the Full-Time and Part-Time Discretionary Learning Support Fund Policy and Guidance.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

What is it?

Students aged 16, 17 or 18 with an annual household income of £30,810 or less can receive weekly payments of up to £30. You must be enrolled on a full-time course of 12 hours a week or more and have the required residency status.

Before you can apply you will need to open a bank account to receive your EMA payments.

Payments are intended to help with costs associated with learning and are made subject to a satisfactory attendance.

How do I get EMA?

Further information and advice on EMA is available by calling the Learner Support helpline on 0800 121 8989 (select option 1) or from the website **www.direct.gov.uk**

Further Education Courses

Adult Learning Grant (ALG)

What is it?

The Adult learning Grant (ALG) is intended to help adults studying full-time with the costs associated with learning. The grant pays up to £30 per week subject to a satisfactory attendance.

To be eligible you must be:

- 19 or over
- Receiving a low or no income
- Studying full time for a first full level 2 or level 3 qualification.
and
- Satisfy the residency criteria

How do I get the Adult Learning Grant?

Further information, advice and guidance through the ALG application process is available by contacting Student Support on 01245 265611 ext 3404. Information is also available on the website **www.direct.gov.uk** or by calling the Learner Support helpline on 0800 121 8989 (select option 2).

Further Education Courses

Care to Learn (C2L)

What is it?

Students under 20 years who are parents caring for their own child may be eligible for support from Care to Learn.

How many hours must I attend each week?

There are no set hours. You can choose to complete a part-time or full time course. Your course could be anything from a few weeks to over two years.

What kinds of childcare can I use?

Childcare providers must be appropriately Ofsted registered and care can be with:

- a registered childminder
- a pre-school playgroup
- a day nursery
- an out of school club

Will Care to Learn pay for a relative to care for my child?

Yes, if the relative lives apart from the child, is appropriately Ofsted registered and is also providing registered care for children they are not related to.

If you qualify you can claim up to £160 per week for each child which can also include help towards additional travel costs to get you to and from your carer.

How do I get Care to Learn?

Further information, advice and guidance through the C2L application process is available by contacting Student Support on 01245 265611 ext 3404. Information is also available on the website **www.direct.gov.uk** or by calling the Learner Support helpline on 0800 121 8989 (select option 3).

Further Education Courses

Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work (FCTLW)

What is it?

If you are aged 20 or over and have one or more children, the FCTLW scheme could help with the cost of childcare while you learn or train.

Do I qualify?

If you:

- are out of work or in paid employment for up to 16 hours per week
- have a partner who is working
- have a household income of less than £20k in the previous tax year
- have one or more children aged 4 or under (under 18 if child is disabled)
- meet the residency conditions for the scheme
- are enrolled on a funded course at level 3 or under
- Use an appropriately Ofsted registered carer

You could qualify for up to £175 per child per week which can also include associated travel costs whilst you participate in learning.

How do I get Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work?

Information, advice and guidance through the FCTLW application process is available by contacting Student Support on 01245 265611 ext 3404. Information is also available on the website www.direct.gov.uk or by calling the Learner Support helpline on 0800 121 8989 (select option 4).

Further Education Courses

Professional and Career Development Loan (PCDL)

What is it?

The Professional and Career Development Loans are bank loans that can be used to help pay for work related learning. You can borrow between £300 and £10,000 to help support the cost of up to two years of learning (or three years if it includes one year's relevant unpaid practical work). The Young People's Learning Agency will pay the interest on the loan while you are learning and for one month afterwards. The loan can be used to pay course fees or other costs such as travel and living expenses. You can also use the loan to supplement other forms of support such as grants or bursaries. Because the Professional and Career Development Loan is a commercial loan product, they should only be considered as an option once all other student funding options have been investigated.

How do I apply?

Further information on financial assistance to support your learning, please visit www.direct.gov.uk/adultlearning or contact **Careers and Advice on 0800 100 900**. Our learning provider registration number is: 1342.

Higher Education Courses

What statutory support can I get?

Part-time UK higher education students who live and study in England may be able to apply for means-tested, non-repayable grants.

The grants available are:

Tuition fee grant

which helps pay tuition fees

Course costs grant

which can help to pay for course related costs such as books and equipment

Eligibility for fee and course grant

To apply for these grants, both you and your course must be 'eligible'.

Your course must:

- last at least one year
- not take more than twice as long to complete as an equivalent full-time course.

You won't qualify for the fee or course costs grant:

- if you already have a degree from a UK university or college
- if you are studying a part-time course of Initial Teacher Training (you will apply for the same type of student funding as full-time students)
- for more than one part-time course at a time

Further information on fee and course cost grants and to apply online see website **www.direct.gov.uk**

Higher Education Courses

What other support is available?

- Additional Fee Support Scheme (AFSS)
- Access to Learning Fund (ALF)

Additional Fee Support Scheme (AFSS)

Students who are eligible for funding for a part-time course may also be eligible to apply for the Additional Fee Support Scheme (AFSS).

This allows additional fee support for part-time low-income students whose statutory support is insufficient to meet the full cost of tuition fees.

Further information about the AFSS, please contact the Student Money Advice and Rights Team, Student Services, Anglia Ruskin University.

Access to Learning Fund (ALF)

Eligible part-time students may apply for additional support through Anglia Ruskin University's Access to Learning Fund. This fund is provided by the government to Higher Education institutions.

Applicants:

- must fulfil residence requirements, EU and international students are not eligible to apply
- should be undertaking at least 60 credits a year, (50% of a full-time equivalent course) or 30 credits if you are a disabled student.

Further information about the ALF, please contact the Student Money Advice and Rights Team, Student Services, Anglia Ruskin University on **0845 271 3333** or email: answers@ac.uk or www.anglia.ac.uk

Higher Education Courses

Disabled Students Allowances (DSA)

What are they?

Disabled Students' Allowances are grants to help meet the extra course costs students can face as a direct result of a disability or specific learning difficulty. They are aimed at helping disabled people to study on an equal basis with other students.

If you have an impairment, health condition (including a mental health condition) or specific learning difficulty like dyslexia, you may be entitled to claim extra financial help as a student. This is paid on top of anything you get through the standard student finance package.

More information is available on the website www.direct.gov.uk and search on Education and Learning – student finance - finance for new students – part time students.

Skills Accounts

What is it?

A Skills Account is available to all adults in England aged 19 and over and can help to identify the different types of funding that are available and may help you with the cost of learning. Use the Skills Account tools to check if you are eligible for help with the cost of course fees, childcare and travel while learning, or the cost of course materials. You will need to register with Skills Accounts to be able to use all of the funding tools.

With your Skills Account, you can find out if you may be eligible for government funding to help with the cost of your learning. In order to see if you may be eligible for government funding, you must have the legal right to live in England at the start of any learning programme you may wish to begin.

For more information please go to the website: www.direct.gov.uk and search under Skills Accounts

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