

Funding for Further Education (FE) Courses: Part-Time

Frequently Asked Questions

Will I have to pay for my course fees?

If you study on a part-time basis you may be expected to pay your course fees. However, Perth College UHI operates a system of Fee-Waivers which allows some students to study on a part-time basis for free. If you have been resident in the UK/EU/EEA for at least 3 years, are resident in Scotland, and are receiving certain benefits or have a low income, you may be entitled to study on a part-time basis and have your tuition fees waived.

Some courses at Perth College UHI are not covered by the Fee-Waiver Scheme and only certain benefits are acceptable as a basis for a Fee-Waiver. Please contact our Student Funding Adviser for more information and to check your eligibility.

It may also be possible to use funding from an Individual Learning Account (ILA) to pay for or contribute towards course fees. You need to be aged over 16 and living in Scotland to qualify for an ILA, and if you earn £22,000 a year or less, you could get £200 a year towards the cost of learning. For more information, please call ILA Scotland on 0808 100 1090, or visit www.ilascotland.org.uk

Please note that you can only use ILA funding towards the cost of some courses, and you must have your ILA account set up before you can reserve a place on a course using this funding. Unfortunately, we cannot accept full or part payment through an ILA once a class has started.

Is there any funding available to me?

Some funding may be available to students learning on a part-time basis depending on the course of study, and individual circumstances.

You may be able to access a Part-Time Bursary to help with the cost of travel and essential study materials, however this support is dependant on the number of hours you study, whether or not you meet the specified residency criteria, and your personal circumstances.

You may also be entitled to receive support through the College's Discretionary and Childcare Funds. These funds offer assistance to students experiencing financial difficulty while at college and to those who pay formal childcare costs while they study. As with other forms of student funding, you will be required to meet a range of eligibility criteria in order to be entitled to receive help through the Discretionary or Childcare Funds.




For further information and advice on the funding that may be available to you, please contact our Student Funding Adviser.

Can I stay on my benefits while I am studying?

Depending on the benefit you receive, it may be possible to continue claiming this benefit, and study at the same time. However, it is essential that you check whether or not you are entitled to do this with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) before you begin a college course.

How can I find out more?

The information given here is intended only as a general guide and we would encourage you to discuss your own individual financial situation with our Student Funding Adviser to ensure you are aware of all of the funding that is available to you. You can contact an Adviser in the following ways:

-  01738 877375
-  pc.student_funding@perth.uhi.ac.uk
-  The Student Services Centre, Brahan Building, Perth College UHI

Funding for Further Education (FE) Courses: Full-Time

Frequently Asked Questions

Will I have to pay for my course fees?

If you have been living in the UK/EU/EEA for at least 3 years, are resident in Scotland before the course start date, and you have not received funding for a course at the same level before, it is likely that you will **not** have to pay fees for your full-time course.

If you have received funding in the past you might still be eligible for further funding but please contact our Student Funding Adviser for more information before completing an application form.

Is there any funding available to me?

As a student on a Further Education course, your main source of funding will either be a College Bursary or an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). These are financial awards that can provide you with funding to help cover living costs, travel costs, and the costs of essential books and study materials. Before you can be given an award of either a Bursary or an EMA, you must meet a range of eligibility criteria including your residency, household income and previous study.

If you are eligible for funding and are aged under 18 on the start date of your course you should receive an EMA and if you are aged over 18 you should receive a Bursary.

You may also be entitled to receive support through the College's Discretionary and Childcare Funds. These funds offer assistance to students experiencing financial difficulty while at college, and to those who pay formal childcare costs while they study. As with other forms of student funding, you will be required to meet a range of eligibility criteria in order to be entitled to receive help through these Funds.

How much will I receive?

Depending on circumstances, students receiving an EMA may receive £ 10, £20 or £30 per week. You may also be provided with a travel pass, and funds to cover the costs of books and materials.

Again, depending on personal circumstances, students receiving a Bursary may be eligible to receive awards of up to £89.07 per week, plus travel and study expenses. However, this amount varies considerably from person to person depending on individual circumstances and so you may receive less than this amount.

All EMA and Bursary payments are subject to satisfactory attendance and progress at college.

How will the College assess how much funding I receive?

Your household income will be taken into account when we assess how much you may be entitled to receive, and so the income of your parents, partner or spouse will be taken into account as appropriate to your circumstances.

When should I apply?

When you have been offered a formal acceptance on a College course or programme you will be sent a funding application form as soon as they become available in mid May. When you have accepted your place in writing, you should apply for funding as quickly as possible. As the College processes hundreds of applications for funding, it can take up to 21 days to hear the outcome of an application, and if you apply close to or after the start of term, it may be that you have to wait up to a month to start receiving any payments.

Can I stay on my benefits while I am studying?

Generally, full-time students do not qualify for benefits, and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) does not offer any financial support specifically for being a student. Any entitlement to benefit will be based on your non-student related circumstances. However, depending on the benefit you receive, it may be possible to continue claiming this benefit, and study at the same time, but it is essential that you check whether or not you are entitled to do this with the DWP before you begin a college course.

How can I find out more?

The information given here is intended only as a general guide and we would encourage you to discuss your own individual financial situation with our Student Funding Adviser to ensure you are aware of all of the funding that is available to you. You can contact an Adviser in the following ways:

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📍 The Student Services Centre, Brahan Building, Perth College UHI