

CARE - EXPERIENCED



FUNDING SUPPORT

CARE-EXPERIENCED FUNDING SUPPORT

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CARE-EXPERIENCED?

The term 'care-experienced' (sometimes known as a 'care leaver' or having been 'looked after') refers to an individual who has experienced or is currently experiencing a particular form of care in their life.

These forms of care can be defined as follows:

- **Care-experienced:** an individual who has been looked after by a local authority at any time during their life. This includes adoptive children who were previously looked after.
- **Care leaver:** a young person who was looked after on or after their 16th birthday and who is aged under 26 years.
- **Looked after:** a young person currently looked after in a formal arrangement with a local authority typically, but not always, involving necessary supervision arrangements following a children's hearing. The young person can be looked after while remaining in the family home with social work support, or in a kinship, foster or residential care placement.

WHAT FUNDING SUPPORT DOES NCL OFFER TO CARE-EXPERIENCED STUDENTS?

Starting college can be a daunting thought for any potential student but knowing your funding entitlements can help make your journey easier.

Our aim at NCL is to ensure that every student receiving a particular form of care are offered the support they need from our Student Funding Team. Our staff will help you understand your entitlements and can assist with your application, if necessary.

A letter from the social work department or from your head teacher, confirming you are care-experienced, a care leaver or a looked after young person, will be useful in supporting your funding application.

You can arrange to speak with a funding advisor by emailing student.funding@nclan.ac.uk.

FULL-TIME STUDENTS

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA)

EMA is a weekly allowance of £30 that is payable fortnightly to students under 18 years old during term-time, to help with costs related to their education.

The weekly allowance awarded will normally depend on the student's financial circumstances. It is possible to claim an EMA as well as certain benefits but each individual claim must be checked with the Student Funding team.

If you are claiming EMA, you may also be entitled to claim a bursary for course and travel costs (if more than two miles from college) and may be eligible for the away from home bursary allowance of £41.60 (if not in receipt of any benefits and living away from home).

BURSARY

A bursary is a means-tested allowance (based on income) which can cover the costs of course, travel and maintenance. Below is an example of what can be paid:

Age of student	Living in parental / guardian home	Away from parental home (weekly)
Under 18 years		£202.50
18 – 24 years	£202.50	£202.50
25 years & over (self-supporting)	£202.50	£202.50

When applying for a bursary, it is important to take note of any benefits you are receiving as this may change the amount of money you are entitled to. It is important to note that you cannot claim for Job Seekers allowance if you are attending full-time study.

When your student funding application is received, our Student Funding team will ensure that you receive the best level of funding available, taking into account your wider circumstances. This means that where possible, you will receive the maximum level of funding (for example a bursary rather than an EMA). If however, the maximum level of funding would result in you receiving a reduce amount of money from other benefits, then the College will allocate you a lower amount.

The care-experienced bursary is not intended to replace any existing financial support provided by Local Authorities or other sources such as Housing Benefit or financial support via Through Care and After Care.

TRAVEL

If it is difficult for you to get to college using public transport, you may be able to use college transport.

Due to the semi-rural catchment area of the Motherwell campus, this campus operates a bus service run by Blue Bus Limited.

Taxi transport is available at all campuses should you be unable to use public transport. You should contact our Learner Support Assistant, Lorna Ashe (lorna.ashe@nclan.ac.uk) as soon as possible to arrange this.

If you intend to use the college transport available, you will need to indicate this clearly on your bursary application form. Travel expenses will not be included in your bursary award but instead will be paid directly by the College if you meet the overall criteria for a bursary.

HN LEVEL AND ABOVE

If you are a student wishing to study full-time and have lived in Scotland since birth, you will not be required to pay tuition fees. The Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) will pay for your fees, so you will need to apply by visiting www.saas.gov.uk

If you have been in the care of a local authority, your total funding (up to £8100) will be a bursary. You cannot apply for a student loan for living costs.

A Care-Experienced Accommodation Grant of up to £105 per week is also available for students who require assistance with accommodation costs during the summer months between eligible courses.

For further information on the kind of support you may be eligible for, please contact **SAAS** on **0300 555 0505** or visit the SAAS website. Please contact Student Funding if you require assistance with your application to SAAS.

DISCRETIONARY FUNDING

Discretionary funding is available for students who are in financial difficulties as a direct result of taking on a college course. This fund is paid in addition to any other forms of student support, so you can still apply if you have already applied for a bursary or a SAAS student loan.

If you are living on your own or in shared accommodation, you may be entitled to assistance from our discretionary funding to help with rent payments. Students studying in 2019/20 received up to a maximum of £70 per week.

To be eligible, you must be able to provide your own tenancy agreement and evidence will be requested to show that you are not in receipt of Housing Benefit. Please check with Housing Benefit your eligibility for assistance, as many young students can study and claim full housing benefit.

CHILDCARE

Childcare funding is available for students who need childcare assistance to allow them to study at College. This fund is paid in addition to any other forms of student support, so you can still apply if you have already applied for a bursary or a SAAS student loan.

Childcare funding cannot be awarded to any student who has a spouse or partner who is available to provide childcare during college hours. All childcare providers must be registered with the Care Inspectorate.

The assessment process for childcare funding is based on need, and all funding is means tested against all household income. If you have a household income above £46,500 you will not be eligible to apply for this fund. This is in line with **HMRC Child Tax Credit Assessment**.

<https://www.gov.uk/benefits-credits/tax-credits>.

The maximum financial support that can be offered to you will be calculated based on the hours you will be required to attend college and placement (if necessary) and will include any timetable study or travel time. The hours of childcare claimed for must not exceed 40 hours per week nor 8 hours per day. The amount of funds allocated to each child is limited to the college academic calendar (37 weeks) and the total award per student will not exceed £7,020.

WELFARE FUND

A small welfare fund is available as a short-term loan to students who experience unavoidable financial emergencies (e.g. due to a delay in receiving funding).

If you face an unavoidable financial situation, please contact your local campus student adviser or email the Student Advisers inbox: StudentAdviser@nclan.ac.uk

PART TIME FUNDING

FEE WAIVER

Most students studying part-time and on distance learning courses will have to pay tuition fees. However, if you receive certain benefits, are on a low income or have a disability, you may be eligible for free tuition. For more information on the benefits and low income criteria and to request a Fee Waiver form, please contact a member of our finance team.

INDIVIDUAL TRAINING ACCOUNT (ITA)

Individual Training Accounts are available to help people develop the skills they need for work, giving learners who meet the eligibility criteria up to £200 towards a single training course or training episode per year. And because it's not a loan, the money doesn't need to be paid back.

ITA funding could be right for you if you're:

- Aged 16 or over,
- Not in education or involved in any other SDS funded programme,
- Unemployed and looking to get back into work,
- Employed, earning less than £22,000 per year and looking to progress in or change your job
- Resident in Scotland*

You must apply for an ITA before booking on your course. For more information on the full eligibility criteria and the courses which ITA can be used to support call **SDS** on **0800 917 8000** or visit:

<https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/learn-and-train/sds-individual-training-accounts-ita>

**Ordinarily resident means that you live in Scotland year after year by choice, apart from temporary or occasional absences such as holidays or business trips. Living here totally or mainly for the purpose of receiving full-time education may not count as being ordinarily resident. If you are not a UK national, you must be settled in Scotland (as set out in the Immigration Act 1971) immediately before the date on which you made your application.*

PART TIME EMA

In January 2016, the Government made changes to the EMA programme meaning it is now available to students studying on a part-time course.

Like the full-time EMA, this is a weekly allowance that is paid to you on a fortnightly basis. EMA funding is awarded if you are under 18 years of age at the official start date of your course.

The weekly allowance awarded will normally depend on the financial circumstances of the household.

With the part-time EMA, students are unable to claim for any travel or course costs.

CONTACT US

For any further advice and guidance, you can contact us by email student.funding@nclan.ac.uk

Coatbridge Campus | Room 98C

Cumbernauld Campus | Room 002

Motherwell Campus | Room 0019

USEFUL LINKS

SAAS | www.saas.gov.uk

Scottish Funding Council | www.sfc.ac.uk

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