



Student Parents and Carers

Parents' Learning Allowance (PLA)

If you are a parent with dependent children, you may be eligible to apply for the PLA to help with course related costs. What you receive will be based on your income and the income of your spouse, partner or civil partner and any other dependants.

PLA is not counted when assessing your income for child benefit and tax credits. If both parents are students, both can claim the full PLA subject to their income. Payment is usually made along with any maintenance grants/loans you are entitled to.

In order to apply, you will need to complete all sections of your Student Finance application and supply any evidence required such as your child/children's birth certificates and tax credit award letter.

Childcare Grant (CCG)

If you are responsible for a child under the age of 15 (or 17 if they have special educational needs) and you use an Ofsted registered childcare provider, you can apply for the CCG. You cannot claim CCG if you are already receiving the childcare element in working tax credit but you may decide that it is more financially viable to accept CCG as opposed to the tax credit element.

CCG is dependent on your household income but you can claim up to 85% of your actual childcare costs during term time and holidays up to the current maximum amount.

In order to apply, you will need to complete your Student Finance application and state that you wish to apply for CCG. Student Finance will then send you the CCG1 form to complete and will ask that you estimate your childcare costs. You will be required to submit termly receipts of your actual childcare costs and any over or underpayment will be reflected in your next payment.

You do not need to repay CCG unless you have received an overpayment or have not submitted actual costs in a timely manner to Student Finance.

Adult Dependents' Grant (ADG)

The ADG is designed to help those students who have adults who are "wholly or mainly financially dependent" on them. The amount you are entitled to is dependent on your income and the income of your spouse, civil partner, partner or other dependant adult. This is a non-repayable grant which will be paid directly to you.

You cannot claim ADG for a grown up child who is still dependent on you or for any dependants who are in receipt of statutory funding for their own higher education courses.



Support Advice Centre

To apply for this you just need to ensure you complete all the relevant sections of your Student Finance application form and where necessary, provide evidence of your dependant adult's income.

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Tax Credits

You can claim tax credits while you are a student, provided you meet the qualifying rules.

If you want to claim Working Tax Credit, you will need to do paid work in addition to your studies. Any time spent working which is part of your studies will not count as remunerative work.

Child Benefit

You can claim child benefit if you are responsible for a child who is under 16 or if they continue in approved education or training. For this you must tell the Child Benefit Office.

Further guidance

For further guidance on student parents and carers contact the Advice Centre.

- 02380 592 085
- advice@susu.org

You can also visit us in Building 40, Highfield campus. Our opening hours are Monday–Friday 09.00–17.00.

Disclaimer: While care has been taken to ensure that information contained in the Advice Centre publications is true and correct at the time of writing, changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact on the accuracy of this information. The Advice Centre and SUSU cannot accept responsibility for any actions taken as a result of advice given in this publication.
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