

Financial Support for Student Parents and Dependant Adults

Childcare Grants

- Childcare Grants (non-repayable grant that pays for 85% of your weekly childcare costs for up to 52 weeks) <https://www.gov.uk/childcare-grant>

To qualify for a Childcare Grant, you need to meet the following:

1. Be a full-time student
2. Your child must be under 15, or 17 if he has special educational needs, and has to be dependent on you
3. Have a student finance package, or be eligible for one
4. Be a permanent resident in England
5. The childcare provider has to be approved by Ofsted, or if the child is cared at home, the childminder has to be registered with the appropriate body (the carer cannot be a relative).

Parents Learning Allowance

- Parents Learning Allowance (grant available for the full-time students with children) <https://www.gov.uk/parents-learning-allowance>

To qualify for Parents Learning Allowance, you need to be undertaking a full-time undergraduate course. You do not need to be paying childcare to qualify.

Special Support Grant

- Special Support Grant (available only for lone parents or part of a student couple with dependent children), this is available as a loan. <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/continuing-fulltime-students>

You may also get the Special Support Grant if you have certain disabilities.

You may get Special Support Grant instead of a Maintenance Grant if you have:

1. Income Support, or income Related-Employment and Support Allowance
2. House Benefit or the housing element of Universal Credit

Benefits and Tax Credits offered by the Government:

- Universal Credit, for low income or out of work students, <https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit>.

The Universal Tax Credit has replaced Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credits and Income Support, but you can still make a new claim for Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit if:

1. You have 3 or more children under 17
 2. You or your partner reached Pension Credit qualifying age
 3. You get the Severe Disability Premium
- Child Tax Credit available, depending on the number of the children, <https://www.gov.uk/child-tax-credit>
 - Working Tax Credits available, depending on the amount of hours worked per week and income, <https://www.gov.uk/working-tax-credit>
 - Income Support for low-income students, <https://www.gov.uk/income-support>.

- Housing Benefits, can help you pay your rent if you are unemployed, on a low income or claiming benefits and has been replaced by Universal Credit <https://www.gov.uk/housing-benefit>

You can make a new Housing Benefits claim, only if one of following apply to you:

1. Have 3 or more children
2. Getting severe disability premium
3. You live in temporary accommodation
4. You live in sheltered or supported housing with special facilities

- Free School Meals for children, you can apply with the local Council or you can apply online at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

To qualify for Free School Meals, you need to get any of the following:

1. Income support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or income-related Employment and Support Allowance
2. Universal Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit

- Job Seeker's Allowance to help you when you look for work: <https://www.gov.uk/jobseekers-allowance>

To qualify, one of the following should apply to you:

1. Have 3 or more children
2. Are getting the Severe Disability Premium
3. Received Universal Credit in the last 6 months and stopped because of increased earnings
4. Are not working at the moment, but you are looking for work

Childcare support from Government (available depending on your circumstances):

Estimator calculator available at <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Council Tax

You can be eligible for council tax discount or exemption if you are on low income or claim benefits. You can apply if you own your home, rent, are unemployed or working.

You can apply for Council Tax with your local council:

1. You can receive exemption for household, where everyone is a full -time student.
2. You can receive a discount of 25% if you live with partner, or 50%, if no one is living in your home

<https://www.gov.uk/council-tax/discounts-for-full-time-students>

Council Tax letters can be requested through the your *Additional VLE Services*, under the 'My Forms' tab.

For more information, you can access the website: <https://www.turn2us.org.uk/Benefit-guides/Full-time-students-and-benefits/Who-is-a-full-time-student-for-benefit-purposes>

Should you need further advice or information, please contact disabilityandinclusion@london.aru.ac.uk