

## Help with childcare costs 2011/12

### What funding is available for childcare costs?

This will depend on the course you are studying and how you are funded.

**Student Finance Wales/ England / NI and SAAS funded students** can apply for a Childcare Grant to help with up to 85% registered childcare costs. This is means tested against household income which includes the income of a spouse or partner. The maximum payment for students making an application to Student Finance England is £148.75 per week for one child and £225 per week for two or more children.. For Students making an application to Student Finance Wales the maximum is £161.50 per week for one child and £274.55 per week for two or more children.

To apply for the Childcare Grant search for your relevant 'student finance' website for England, Wales, Scotland or N Ireland or phone for an application form:

[www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance) (England)  
[www.studentfinancewales.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk) (Wales)

[www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk) (Scotland)  
[www.studentfinanceneni.co.uk](http://www.studentfinanceneni.co.uk) (N Ireland)

**PGCE students** are eligible to apply for the above Childcare Grant in the same way as undergraduate students.

**Students in receipt of a NHS Bursary** can apply for a Childcare Allowance to help with up to 85% registered childcare costs. This is means tested against household income which includes the income of a spouse or partner. The maximum Allowance payment for students funded via the NHS Student Awards Unit (NHS SAU) in Wales is £126.65 per week for one child and £209.95 per week for two or more children. If you are funded via the NHS Students Grant Unit (NHS SGU) in England their website has information on the Allowance rates. You can apply for the NHS Childcare Allowance as follows

Students funded via the NHS SAU in Wales either phone (029) 2019 6168 between 9 and 12 Mon-Fri for a form or pick a form up from the Student Support Centre. Students funded via the NHS SGU in England either phone 0845 358 6655 or visit [www.nhs.uk/nhsstudentawardsunit](http://www.nhs.uk/nhsstudentawardsunit)

student support centre  
canolfan cymorth i fyfyrwyr

50 Park Place, CF10 3AT  
Cardigan House, CF14 4XN  
w. [www.cardiff.ac.uk/studentsupport](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/studentsupport)  
e. [studentsupportcentre@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:studentsupportcentre@cardiff.ac.uk)  
t. 02920 874 844

**Postgraduate Social Work students** can apply for help for up to 85% of registered childcare costs over 52 weeks. This is means tested against household income which includes the income of a spouse or partner. The application pack for the Bursary includes a form for help with childcare costs. Alternatively, if you are funded via the Care Council for Wales (CCW) telephone (0845 0700249) or if you are funded via the NHS Business Services Authority telephone 0845 6101122 for further information. The maximum Allowance payment for Welsh students via the CCW is £8,330 per year (£160.19 per week) for one child or £14,280 per year (£274.61 per week) for 2 or more children. For English students funded via the NHS BSA it is £148.75 per week for one child and £255 per week for two or more children.

**PhD students** Most Research Councils do not offer specific, regular childcare funding though you could check if the Council provides any allowances for students with young dependants. If you need help with childcare costs then you may like to see other options below.

## **What about other financial support for childcare costs?**

**Financial Contingency Fund (FCF)**. If you don't qualify for any statutory support for registered childcare costs or there is a shortfall between the support you receive and what you have to pay you have the option to apply for help via the FCF. Further information about the Fund is available on our web pages. Assistance from the Fund, in the form of non-repayable grants, is means-tested against your household income. Support for unregistered childcare costs can also be considered by the FCF. You will need to provide evidence of the cost (a letter from the child carer or receipts) and the reasons why you are using unregistered childcare. In the past students have received assistance because they could not arrange registered childcare in their local area or if it was available it didn't coincide with course commitments. Help with unregistered childcare costs is capped to a reasonable rate. To find out more contact a Student Adviser.

**Cardiff University Day Care Centre refund of fees scheme**. The University provides funding for students to be considered for a refund of up to a 50% of **Day Care Centre** fees if they have children in the Centre. Students who don't qualify for support from a Childcare Grant/Allowance can apply by filling in a form available from the Support Centre and the Day Care Centre. Awards are dependent on household income. The scheme doesn't cover the Nursery run by the NHS Trust at the Heath Hospital Site.

**Educational Trust Funds**. Some Charitable Trust Funds may consider assistance for childcare costs. Contact the Student Support Centre to discuss Charities and Trust funding with an adviser.

**Childcare Element of Working Tax Credit (WTC)**. If you qualify for Working Tax Credit as part of your household income then it is possible to include your childcare costs as part of your WTC claim. However, you cannot claim the Childcare Element of WTC at the same time as the Student Finance or NHS Childcare Grant/Allowance. It may be more appropriate to apply for the Student Finance or NHS Childcare Grant/Allowance because you, or your spouse/partner, do not have to be working to qualify for this support.