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13. Student Funding

Students who are Carers

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A carer is anyone, including children and adults, who looks after a family member, partner or friend who needs help because of their illness, frailty, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction and cannot cope without your support.

In Scotland, Carers Allowance has now been replaced with the new Carer Support payment. This replacement benefit does not count as income which means you can study fulltime, receive student funding, as well as the new Carer's Support payment (subject to meeting Social Security Scotland eligibility rules).

Full-time courses consist of a minimum of 21 hours per week, even if you are not timetabled or taught for this number of hours. This is the definition of all full-time courses as it includes not just classes, lectures and seminars, but also individual study for course work.

If you claim Universal Credits that includes an amount because you have caring responsibilities, then you may be able to remain on Universal Credits, however this does not apply to all students, and you are advised to seek further advice.

You are not usually eligible if you are in full-time, non-advanced education age 16-19, although exceptions apply.

This information is also available in an accessible format on our website:
<https://www1.ayrshire.ac.uk/college-life/student-funding-and-money-support>

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Ayr Campus - studentfunding_ayr@ayrshire.ac.uk

Kilmarnock Campus - studentfunding_kilmarnock@ayrshire.ac.uk

Kilwinning Campus - studentfunding_kilwinning@ayrshire.ac.uk

All campuses Tel: 01563 495033

Students who are Carers

This quick guide shows types of funding and who can apply

Further Education						
Student Age/ Support	Type of Course	Fees Paid	Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA)	FE Bursary Fund	FE Discretionary Fund	Childcare Funds
16 -17	Full Time Part Time	✓ ✓ ...	✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ..	✓	✓
Under 25 & Parentally Supported ..	Full Time Part Time	✓ ✓ ...		✓ ✓ ..	✓ ✓	
Over 25 or under 25 & self supporting, or Care Experienced	Full Time Part Time	✓ ✓ ...		✓ ✓ ..	✓ ✓	✓ ✓
Higher Education						
			Student Loan/ Care Experienced Bursary	Lone Parent Grant/ Lone Parent Childcare Grant	Independent/ Young Student Bursary	Childcare Funds
HNC - HND	Full Time	✓ Previous study rules may apply	✓	✓ Lone parents only	✓	✓ Previous study rules may apply
HNC - HND	Part Time (Part-time fee grant available)	✓ ...				✓ Discretionary fund only

* Travel and course expenses only

** A parentally supported student is one who is single and under 25 and has not self supported financially for 3 years and/or has no dependant children

*** You may qualify for Fee Waiver

**** Must be a part-time fundable course

Additional Support and Information

For more information and useful links please visit <https://www1.ayrshire.ac.uk/media/hirb02oi/student-carers-information-pack-august-2025.pdf>

Here you will find the College's pledge and what we intend to do to support you as a carer. You will also find useful information on the Young Carers Grant, Young Carers Package, where you can seek pastoral support and some useful contact emails and telephone numbers.

Date published: June 2025. All information is correct at time of print, however, may be subject to change.