

Universal Credit Bursary

Universal Credit (UC) came into place in Fife in December 2017. It has replaced the following benefits and tax credits, sometimes referred to as 'legacy' benefits:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Housing Benefit

You can remain on Universal Credit while studying if:

- You are responsible for a child
- You are ill/disabled. You must have limited capability for work (assessed by the DWP) and also get disability living allowance (DLA) or personal independence payment (PIP)
- You are under 21 (or are 21 but were under that age when you started your course) on a full-time non-advanced course and are 'without parental support' - for example if you are estranged from your parents or living away from them in other specified circumstances
- You are a single foster parent (this includes some single kinship carers)
- You are in a couple, both of you are students, and one of you is a foster parent
- You are over the qualifying age for state pension credit and your partner has not yet reached that age
- You have taken time out because of illness/disability or caring responsibilities and have now recovered or your caring responsibilities have ended, and you are not eligible for a grant or loan
- You have a partner who is not a student, or who is a student and one or both of you fit into one of the groups above

Please note: if you are aged 16 or 17 and a student you can only claim UC if you fit into one of the first three bullet points above (ie, you are responsible for a child; ill/disabled; or estranged etc, from parents and in non-advanced education).

16/17 year old care leavers who are students can only claim if they are responsible for a child or are ill/disabled, and cannot get help with rent.

Values of Universal Credit

Monthly Standard allowances for Universal Credit

- Single and under 25: £311.68
- Single and 25 or over: £393.45
- In a couple and you're both under 25: £489.23 (for you both)

- In a couple and either of you are 25 or over: £617.60 (for you both)
- For your first child: £333.33 (born before 6 April 2017) £287.92 (born on or after 6 April 2017)
- For your second child: £287.92 per child
- If you have a disabled child up to £487.58

Universal Credit Bursary

The Bursary that we can award students who are in receipt of Universal Credits is £28 per week. This is the maximum that we can award with minimal impact to your benefits.

Travel Expenses

If you are awarded a Bursary, your award might also include travel. To be eligible, you must live out with a 2-mile radius from the campus you will be studying at. Please check out our website for bus ticket explanation.

If you will remain under 22 for the duration of your course you should apply for an NEC card which provides free bus travel throughout Scotland. If you reach the age of 22 during your course you may be eligible to be awarded travel only from your 22nd Birthday. You should apply for the NEC card to cover the period while you are under 22 as no travel funding will be provided by Fife College. <https://getyournec.scot/nec/>

Under 22s

The Young Persons' Free Bus Travel Scheme for Under 22s means anyone under the age of 22 is entitled to free bus travel. Student will need a new or replacement National Entitlement Card (NEC) or Young Scot National Entitlement Card (Young Scot NEC) to travel for free by bus. You can apply for the card on the following webpage getyournec.scot

Once you have your new or replacement card you can register this with the College and it will act as your Student ID card allowing you access to Chromebooks and quick printing on campus.

Over 22s

If you are aged 22 years old or over on the 26th of August 2024, the travel award is subject to an assessment of household income and you need to live more than two miles away as the crow flies (in a straight line) from the College campus and not be in receipt of DLA/PIP or Adult/Child disability payment mobility element.

The travelling expenses are based on the cheapest form of public transport available. The annual amount is based on Student Tickets and calculated on term time attendance.

Travel is only paid for the time that you are travelling to College.

For more information on bus tickets, please visit the Stagecoach [website](#) and select Student Tickets for your location.

Contact Information

Our aim is to support every individual who seeks to further their education. You can make an appointment to see one of our Funding Team if you need assistance with your funding application or have any questions regarding funding. These bookable appointments can be made by either calling the main college number on [0344 248 0115](tel:03442480115) or emailing studentfunding@fife.ac.uk