

Potential funding sources available for Early Learning and Childcare qualifications and learning

June 2023



<u>Introduction</u>

To undertake any registerable qualification to work within the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) sector in Scotland, learners will be expected either to apply for funding to cover the costs of tuition or to self-fund (excluding apprenticeships).

In Scotland, the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) is the executive agency of the Scottish Government that supports eligible Scottish students by paying tuition fees. Further information, including a funding calculator, is available on the SAAS website.

This resource provides details of current public funding available for training in the ELC sector. It includes how much funding is available, and who is eligible. The funding sources are noted by <u>Scottish Credit and Qualifications framework (SCQF)</u> levels, and categorised by who accesses the funding, i.e. Individuals or employers.

This list is not an exhaustive. Funding which employers or local authorities may provide towards training is not reflected. It is worth exploring if employers offer any financial assistance in the first instance.

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IP - Independent provider

I – Independent sector

LA - Local authority

VS – Voluntary and third Sector

FE – Further education

HEI – Higher education institute

SCQF Levels 4-6

<u>Individuals</u>

Funding Stream	Source	Criteria	Amount		Sec	tor E	Eligi	bility	/	Ec	duca	tion
					ELC Social C				Care	Р	rovi	der
				I	LA	vs	l	LA	vs	IP	FE	HEI
Care experienced bursary	SFC (student should apply to their college)	 Must have been in the care of a UK local authority and taking an eligible full time further education course at a SFC-fundable college. Aged 16 or over. 	£202.50 per week¹.								•	
College Bursary	SFC (student should apply to their college)	 On a FT course at college that is SFC-fundable. Aged 18+ (or students aged 16+ if they are self-supporting – e.g. estranged) Level of funding is based on a means test of parents' or partner's income (student income is not taken into account). Highest award to students with parental/partner income of less than c£20k-24k. 	Up to £113 per week for self- supporting students. Up to £89.42 per week for students under 25 living with parents².								•	
Childcare fund	SFC (student should apply to their college)	Student must be on a further education course at a college that is SFC-fundable and be able to evidence they are paying childcare costs with a registered childcare provider.	Allocation will be determined by college. Depends on the cost of the childcare and how many children the student has. Lone parents are prioritised and eligible for £1,215 p.a.								•	
Discretionary Fund	SFC (student should apply to their college)	Any student who is facing additional or unexpected	Maximum award is £3k p.a.								•	

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		hardship can apply to the										
Education of	00 (college's Discretionary Fund.	000									
Educational Maintanana	SG (college	 Senior phase S4/S5/S6 students 	£30 per week								•	
Maintenance	administers)	0.0.0.00										
<u>Allowance</u>		 Students aged 16-18 attending FT or PT college 										
		courses.										
		From low-income household										
		(£24,421 if only one child or										
		£26,884 if more than one										
		child in family).										
		-										
Further Education	SFC (student	 Studying a part-time or 	Maximum of £1,008 p.a.								•	
Tuition Fees (PT)	should apply to	distance learning course at a	·									
	their college)	SFC-funded college.										
		 Residency eligibility 										
		conditions.										
		■ From a low income										
		household (defined as £8k-										
		£18k depending on										
		circumstances, or receiving benefits).										
		Speak to college for										
		eligibility										
Help with study	SFC (student		Depends on student's study costs.									
materials (can include	should apply to		Student may be given items								•	
equipment required	their college)		sourced by college rather than a									
because of disability)			monetary award.									
		 Student must face personal 	,									
		costs associated with course										
		(e.g. uniform, protective										
		clothing, equipment, etc.)										
Individual Training	SDS		Up to £200									
<u>Accounts</u>		 doing a part-time course 										
		not in education or involved		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Currently on pause		in any other funded										
		programme										

		•	unemployed and looking to get back into work employed and earning less than £22,000 per year Legally resident in Scotland Closes when allocated so not open all year.						
include enhanced costs	SFC (student should apply to their college)	•	low- income household	Depends on student's travel costs. Student may be given a travel pass rather than a monetary				•	
ior disabled students)	aren conege,		` •	award.					
			2 miles from college (distance criteria doesn't						
		•	apply to disabled students). Not available to students						
			who can use free bus travel to get to college.						

Employers and organisations

Funding Stream	Source	Criteria	Amount		Sec	tor E	ligib	ility		E	duca	tion
					ELC	;	Soc	ial C	are	Р	rovi	der
				I	LA	vs	ı	LA	VS	ΙP	FE	HEI
Flexible Workforce Development Fund ³	SFC & SDS	Need to be apprenticeship levy paying employers in Scotland.	Employers can potentially to access up to a maximum total of £15,000⁴.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	★
UK apprenticeship levy paying employers. * applications for the FWDF has now reached its limit and is currently closed.		Two routes available: Through local college provision or the Open University in Scotland (OUiS) - Scottish Funding Council - FWDF	**further details available in <u>Flexible</u> <u>Workforce Development Fund</u> <u>guidance</u>									
		 Through private training provision administered by 										

Flexible Workforce		Skills Development Scotland - Our Skillsforce Flexible Workforce Development Fund. All applications must be supported by a relative training needs analysis. Non-levy paying SMEs.	Up to £5,000									<u> </u>
Development Fund ⁶ non-levy paying small to medium enterprise (SME) employers in Scotland. The funding will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. * applications for the FWDF has now reached its limit and is currently closed.		 Two routes available: Through local college provision or the OUIS - Scottish Funding Council - FWDF Through private training provision administered by Skills Development Scotland following a referral from a college.⁷ 	*** further details available in Flexible Workforce Development Fund guidance	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	* 8
Social Services (Children and Young People) Social Services and Healthcare Modern Apprenticeships at	local authorities & independent training providers; SFC funds colleges	New starts or existing employees	How much will depend on the age of	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
SCQF level 6 ¹⁰			the apprentice. From £1,000 - £2700¹¹.				•	•	•	•	•	

Contribute towards the training costs. Social Services and Health Care			The amount is larger for younger people for example 16–19-year-olds - £2700 and over 35s £1,000. There are enhanced funding contributions for those who are disabled and care-experienced, up to and including age 29.				
Voluntary Sector Development Fund ¹² Funding for 2023-24 to be confirmed.	SSSC	 Voluntary organisations that employ staff who must be registered with the SSSC within six months of the employer accepting VSDF. (Not available for modern apprentices) Funding can only be used as a contribution to the training costs for specific individuals to meet SSSC registration requirements. Priority for support workers in housing support and care at home services in 2022-23 Must be a registered care service Funding is available for SVQ Social Services and Healthcare at SCQF level 6 and 7. Must be a registered charity and registered with the Care. 	Up to £24,000 per organisation			•	

SCQF Levels 7-11

<u>Individuals</u>

Funding Stream	m Source Criteria Amount		Amount	S	ecto	r Eli	igib	ility		E4	IICa	tion
				ı	ELC			Soci Care			ovi	
				I	LA	VS	I	LA	vs	ΙP	FE	HEI
Care experienced bursary	SAAS	 Must have been in the care of a UK local authority before you turned 18.and taking an eligible full time undergraduate course 	£9,000									•
Childcare Fund (To help students who have children with the costs of childcare.)	SFC (student should apply to their college)	Student must be on an HE course at SFC-fundable college (usually HNC/HND) and be able to evidence that they are paying childcare costs to a registered childcare provider.	Allocation will be determined by the college. Depends on the cost of the childcare and how many children the student has. Lone parents are prioritised and eligible for £1,215 p.a.									
Dependants Grant	SAAS	 Income assessed. Acting as a carer for husband, wife, civil partner, partner or other adult dependent Dependent's income also assessed 	up to £2,640								•	•
Disabled Students' Allowance	SAAS	 Disability Not income based Full details available from SAAS 	Depending on need identified subject to thresholds								•	•
Graduate Apprenticeship at SCQF level 9 ¹³ Fully funded tuition fees.	SFC	 Available to new and existing employees of participating employers Aged 16 or over 	Fully funded tuition fees	•	•	•						•

		 Must be resident in Scotland at the start of the graduate apprenticeship. Employer's working premises must be in Scotland. Apply to SAAS for funding Entry requirements are likely to vary across learning providers. 										
Higher education tuition fees (FT)	SAAS	 Studying a full-time HNC, HND or equivalent or degree course or equivalent in Scotland Residence eligibility conditions 	 £1,285 for HNC and HND and any other subdegree £1,820 for undergraduate (first) degree or PGDE courses £1,205 for courses at private colleges or institutions¹⁴ 							•		•
Lone Parent Grant	SAAS	Must be single, widowed, divorced, separated or your civil partnership has dissolved bringing up children on your own Only for full time courses 	■ up to £1,305								•	•
Part time fee grant	SAAS	 meet residence criteria earn less than £25,000 per 	Up to £1,820 depending on credits¹5 HYPERLINK "https://news.sssc.uk.com/ne ws/fee-grant-leaflet" £1,805 for publicly funded degree courses £1,820 for eligible 120 credit university courses which are not campus-based £1,274 for HNC, HND	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

	 Must be studying between 30-19 SCQF credits each year Could be eligible if taking 120 credits per year for approved courses which are not campus based) Scottish Credit and Qualifications framework (SCQF) credits
Young student Bursary SAAS	Household income is under £34,000 and meet the following conditions: • eligible for SAAS to pay the standard tuition fee direct to college or university on applicants behalf. • under 25 or were under 25 before the relevant date • not married, in a civil partnership or living with a partner before the relevant date of the academic year SAAS are assessing for • have not supported yourself from earnings or benefits, outside full time education, for any three years immediately before the relevant date • do not have a child under the age of 18, who is financially dependent before the relevant date

Employers and organisations

Funding	Source	Criteria	Amount	Sector E	ligibility	Education
				ELC	Social Care	Provider

					LA	VS	ı	LA	VS	IP	FE	HEI
Flexible Workforce Development Fund¹6_ UK apprenticeship Levy paying employers. * applications for the FWDF has now reached its limit and is currently closed.	SFC & SDS	Need to be apprenticeship Levy paying employers in Scotland. Two routes available: Through local college provision or the Open University in Scotland (OUIS) - Scottish Funding Council - FWDF Through private training provision administered by Skills Development Scotland - Our Skillsforce Flexible	Employers can potentially to access up to a maximum total of £15,000 ¹⁷ . **further details available in Flexible Workforce Development Fund guidance	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*
		Workforce Development Fund. All applications must be supported by a relative training needs analysis.										
Flexible Workforce Development Fund ¹⁹ non-levy paying small to medium enterprise (SME) employers in Scotland. The funding is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. * applications for the FWDF has now reached its limit and is currently closed.	SFC & SDS	Non-levy paying SMEs. Two routes available: Through local college provision or the OUIS - Scottish Funding Council - FWDF Through private training provision administered by Skills Development Scotland following a referral from a college. ²⁰	Up to £5,000 *** further details available in Flexible Workforce Development Fund guidance	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*

Modern Apprenticeships ²² at SCQF level 7 and above Contribute towards the training costs. Social Services and Health Care Social Services (Children and Young People)	SDS	New starts or existing employees who is a modern apprentice on a social services framework	How much will depend on the age of the apprentice. From £1750 - £5,500 ²³ The amount is larger for younger people for example at level 7 16–19-year-olds - £4,200 (SSH) and over 35s (SSH) £1,700.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Voluntary Sector Development Fund ²⁴ Funding for 2023-24 to be confirmed.	SSSC	 Voluntary organisations that employ staff who must be registered with the SSSC within six months of the employer accepting VSDF. (Not available for modern apprentices) Funding can only be used as a contribution to the training costs for specific individuals to meet SSSC registration requirements. Priority for support workers in housing support and care at home services in 2022-23 Funding is available for SVQ Social Services and Healthcare at SCQF level 6 and 7. Must be a registered charity and registered with the Care Inspectorate. 	Up to £24,000 per organisation						•	•	•	

There is also additional funding available from SAAS for students who meet the following categories.

<u>Estranged Students' Bursary (ESB)</u>

<u>EU students</u>