

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

**June 2023**

## Introduction

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 [Scottish Credit and Qualifications framework \(SCQF\)](#) 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.

### **Key**

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**
**Individuals**

Funding Stream	Source	Criteria	Amount	Sector Eligibility						Education Provider			
				ELC			Social Care			IP	FE	HEI	
				I	LA	VS	I	LA	VS				
Care experienced bursary	SFC (student should apply to their college)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ Aged 16 or over.</li> </ul>	£202.50 per week <sup>1</sup> .									●	
<a href="#">College Bursary</a>	SFC (student should apply to their college)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ On a FT course at college that is SFC-fundable.</li> <li>▪ Aged 18+ (or students aged 16+ if they are self-supporting – e.g. estranged)</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> </ul>	Up to £113 per week for self-supporting students. Up to £89.42 per week for students under 25 living with parents <sup>2</sup> .									●	
<a href="#">Childcare fund</a>	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.									●	
<a href="#">Discretionary Fund</a>	SFC (student should apply to their college)	Any student who is facing additional or unexpected	Maximum award is £3k p.a.									●	





		<p>Skills Development Scotland - <a href="#">Our Skillsforce Flexible Workforce Development Fund</a>.</p> <p>All applications must be supported by a relative training needs analysis.</p>												
<p><a href="#">Flexible Workforce Development Fund</a><sup>6</sup></p> <p>non-levy paying small to medium enterprise (SME) employers in Scotland.</p> <p>The funding will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.</p> <p>* applications for the FWDF has now reached its limit and is currently closed.</p>	SFC & SDS	<p>Non-levy paying SMEs.</p> <p>Two routes available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Through local college provision or the OUIS - <a href="#">Scottish Funding Council - FWDF</a></li> <li>▪ Through private training provision administered by <a href="#">Skills Development Scotland</a> following a referral from a college.<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>	<p>Up to £5,000</p> <p>*** further details available in <a href="#">Flexible Workforce Development Fund guidance</a></p>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	★ <sup>8</sup>	
<p><a href="#">Foundation Apprenticeships</a></p> <p><a href="#">Social Services (Children and Young People)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Social Services and Healthcare</a></p>	SDS funds local authorities & independent training providers; SFC funds colleges	Senior phase (S4/S5/S6 pupils). <sup>9</sup>	n/a	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
<p><a href="#">Modern Apprenticeships at SCQF level 6</a><sup>10</sup></p>	SDS	New starts or existing employees who are registered as a modern apprentice on a social services framework	How much will depend on the age of the apprentice. From £1,000 - £2700 <sup>11</sup> .				●	●	●	●	●			

<p>Contribute towards the training costs.</p> <p>Social Services and Health Care</p>			<p>The amount is larger for younger people for example 16–19-year-olds - £2700 and over 35s £1,000.</p> <p>There are enhanced funding contributions for those who are disabled and care-experienced, up to and including age 29.</p>									
<p><a href="#">Voluntary Sector Development Fund</a><sup>12</sup></p> <p>Funding for 2023-24 to be confirmed.</p>	SSSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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)</li> <li>▪ Funding can only be used as a contribution to the training costs for specific individuals to meet SSSC registration requirements.</li> <li>▪ Priority for support workers in housing support and care at home services in 2022-23</li> <li>▪ Must be a registered care service</li> <li>▪ Funding is available for SVQ Social Services and Healthcare at SCQF level 6 and 7.</li> <li>▪ Must be a registered charity and registered with the Care.</li> </ul>	Up to £24,000 per organisation						●	●	●	







		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Must be studying between 30-119 SCQF credits each year</li> <li>▪ Could be eligible if taking 120 credits per year for approved courses which are not campus based) Scottish Credit and Qualifications framework (SCQF) credits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ £1,195 for all courses at private providers</li> </ul>												
<a href="#">Young student Bursary</a>	SAAS	<p>Household income is under £34,000 and meet the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ eligible for SAAS to pay the standard tuition fee direct to college or university on applicants behalf.</li> <li>▪ under 25 or were under 25 before the relevant date</li> <li>▪ not married, in a civil partnership or living with a partner before the relevant date of the academic year</li> <li>▪ SAAS are assessing for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ have not supported yourself from earnings or benefits, outside full time education, for any three years immediately before the relevant date</li> <li>▪ do not have a child under the age of 18, who is financially dependent before the relevant date</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Up to £2000												

**Employers and organisations**

Funding	Source	Criteria	Amount	Sector Eligibility		Education Provider
				ELC	Social Care	



<p><u>Modern Apprenticeships<sup>22</sup> at SCQF level 7 and above</u></p> <p>Contribute towards the training costs.</p> <p>Social Services and Health Care</p> <p>Social Services (Children and Young People)</p>	<p>SDS</p>	<p>New starts or existing employees who is a modern apprentice on a social services framework</p>	<p>How much will depend on the age of the apprentice. From £1750 - £5,500 <sup>23</sup></p> <p>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.</p>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
<p><u>Voluntary Sector Development Fund<sup>24</sup></u></p> <p>Funding for 2023-24 to be confirmed.</p>	<p>SSSC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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)</li> <li>▪ Funding can only be used as a contribution to the training costs for specific individuals to meet SSSC registration requirements.</li> <li>▪ Priority for support workers in housing support and care at home services in 2022-23</li> <li>▪ Funding is available for SVQ Social Services and Healthcare at SCQF level 6 and 7.</li> <li>▪ Must be a registered charity and registered with the Care Inspectorate.</li> </ul>	<p>Up to £24,000 per organisation</p>						●	●	●			

There is also additional funding available from SAAS for students who meet the following categories.  
[Estranged Students' Bursary \(ESB\)](#)  
[EU students](#)