

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FEES AND FUNDING FOR ENTRY TO SRUC 2021 – HIGHER EDUCATION (HNC, HND AND DEGREE)



## *Introduction*

This document provides answers to some of the frequently asked questions (FAQs) we get from students about to undertake a programme of higher education (HE) with SRUC. If you have any further questions, then please email us at [registry@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:registry@sruc.ac.uk)

## **FAQs**

### Do I meet the criteria to apply for my tuition fees to be covered?

Eligible Scottish students studying full-time do not need to pay tuition fees. To qualify as a Scottish student, you must meet all the following conditions:

1. You normally live in Scotland on the first day of the first academic year of the course (usually 1st August)
2. You've been living in the UK for three years before starting your course
3. You're a UK national or have 'settled status' (no restrictions on how long you can stay)

**Important note:** If you do not meet all the above three conditions, you may still be eligible for some elements of support if you meet the requirements of one of the other UK residency categories listed:

- You're a refugee
- You're under humanitarian protection (as a result of a failed application for asylum)
- You're a migrant worker
- You're a child of a Swiss national
- You're a child of a Turkish worker
- You're a Syrian Refugee (VPRS)

You must also normally be living in Scotland on the first day of the first academic year of the course.

**Higher Education students** must apply via SAAS for their tuition fees. If you do not apply, you will have to pay this yourself. If you have studied at HNC/D/degree level before SAAS may not pay your fees.

## What funding is available for HE students?

Students who normally live in Scotland and are studying at SCQF level 7 and above should apply to the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) for their funding. You should apply to SAAS for fees, a Bursary and can also choose to take out a Student Loan for living costs.

Website for SAAS - <https://www.saas.gov.uk/>

## I am an EU citizen, is there funding available for my tuition fees?

Following Brexit, the Scottish Government has committed to funding EU students for the duration of their course and have extended this to students starting their course during the academic year of 2020/21. Students starting in 2021/22, information can be found on SAAS website: <https://www.saas.gov.uk/need-to-know/brexit>

Eligible EU students will continue to have access to free tuition from SAAS.

## I will be studying Part Time, is there funding available for my tuition fees?

Students living in Scotland and undertaking a course on a part time basis, may be eligible for part time tuition fee support from SAAS.

To determine eligibility, further information can be found on the SAAS website: <https://www.saas.gov.uk/part-time>

## I am a Care Leaver, is there funding available for my tuition fees?

### **HE Care Experienced Bursary**

Care Experienced students studying above SCQF level 6 must apply to SAAS for their funding. The Care Experienced Bursary of £8,100.00 replaces the current income-assessed living cost loan and Bursary. If you are in receipt of the Care Experienced Bursary you are not eligible to apply for a Student Loan.

### **Care Experienced Accommodation Grant (maximum £105 per week during the summer holiday):**

Help is available with your accommodation costs over the summer holidays which fall between each year of your course, if you are Care Experienced. SAAS will pay this directly to the person that is providing you with accommodation.

## I think I have been in the care system, but unsure? What is a care leaver?

A care leaver is defined as a person who has been looked after by local authority social services i.e. foster care, residential care etc.

“Looked after/accommodated” includes at home under a care order, in foster care, in local authority accommodation, or under formal kinship care.

## I am a lone parent and need to put my children into a nursery/childminder while I am at college, is there anything to help with the costs?

If you have children, then you can claim assistance with your childcare costs. They must be a registered nursery/childminder and you can only claim costs for the days when you are timetabled to be in college or in a mandatory work placement as part of your course. Payments will not be paid if you do not regularly attend class / work placement. Applications for support from the Childcare Fund are income assessed.

Lone parent students who pay all or part of the cost for registered childcare can receive up to £1,215.00 a year in the form of a Lone Parent Childcare Grant. This is not income assessed however a student must provide proof that they are a lone parent with registered childcare expenses. Students who receive childcare funding from any other source should not apply for this grant (e.g. childcare element of working tax credits).

If lone parents have childcare costs in excess of £1,215.00 then they will be considered for additional support from the Discretionary Childcare Fund, however this element of support will be income assessed.

## Do you have any other funds available to students?

### **Discretionary Fund**

The purpose of the Discretionary Fund is to assist students who endure financial difficulties while attending college. Students need to have exhausted all other funds before applying to discretionary, for example taken out the maximum student loan. It is used mostly to assist students who have their own accommodation and require assistance in paying their housing costs and associated expenses.

Students need to be aware that funds are cash limited and any award made, will likely be insufficient to cover your full housing/rent costs. Students who apply must be able to provide official documents to support any claim for additional financial support. The amount each student receives will be dependent on their personal circumstances.

Students do not need to repay this fund; however, money is limited so not all applications are successful.

## Do you have any other funds available to students?

### **Centenary Bursary**

The Centenary Bursary fund has been established primarily to enable enrolled Higher Education students to receive financial support from SRUC in order to progress their education with us. Eligible students will be those who have limited or no other sources of funding available to them.

Applications can usually be made between (pre)enrolment and mid-October. Students do not need to repay this fund; however, money is limited so not all applications are successful.

## Do you have any other funds available to students?

### **RUK Bursary**

SRUC is pleased to be able to offer a bursary to RUK (Higher Education) applicants of £1150 for each year of their studies.

The bursary will operate as a credit towards payment of your fees and would not be paid to the student. If you accept your place at SRUC (and meet any conditions set) we will inform your funding body of the reduced fee rate.

## Do you have any other funds available to students?

### **Change Your Path Bursary**

This bursary fund of up to £1000 is available to new SRUC students, to help with the costs associated with fitting study into your life. Applicants must be over the age of 25 and looking for a career change or to re-train. There is a maximum of 20 bursaries available, and a small committee will rank all valid applications on the strength of their personal statement.

This Bursary fund is open for applications once a year in the summer and applicants will be made aware of the funding through the Admissions and Recruitment teams. Students do not need to repay this fund; however, money is limited so not all applications are successful.

## Do you have any other funds available to students?

### **Going Further Bursary**

This Bursary is for existing SRUC students who are eligible to apply if they are progressing on from one level of award to another – as progression is at the heart of SRUC's provision.

It will be awarded for those who are "living the SRUC dream" and maximising their options to escalate their qualifications. Applicants who will be prioritised are those who have had to move Campus or have overcome/overcoming extraneous health issues to study.

This is not a hardship bursary – those with specific hardship are directed to Centenary Bursary of Discretionary Funds. This Bursary fund is open for applications once a year in late summer. Students do not need to repay this fund; however, money is limited so not all applications are successful.

## Do you have any other funds available to students?

### **The Gregor Thomas Royan Lamb Bursary for Future Farmers**

Gregor Lamb had a passionate commitment to agriculture. He was not from a farming background but from an early age knew where his future lay. He was working hard at school to take up a place at SRUC to study for the HND in Agriculture. Sadly, Gregor never had the opportunity to pursue his dream. Gregor's family want Gregor's enthusiasm to benefit others and have generously provided the funding to set up a Bursary programme in Gregor's memory.

Applications are invited from those students who are embarking on their Agriculture Higher Education career. A maximum of two years of bursary funding is available, with £1,000 paid each year. The award is made termly, direct into your bank account, and will depend on satisfactory engagement with your learning, achievement on units and progression to year two. Applications can usually be made between (pre)enrolment and mid-October. Students do not need to repay this fund; however, money is limited so not all applications are successful.