

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FEES AND FUNDING FOR ENTRY TO SRUC 2021 – FURTHER EDUCATION



Introduction

This document provides answers to some of the frequently asked questions (FAQs) we get from students about to undertake a programme of further education (FE) with SRUC. If you have any further questions then please email us at 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 of 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)

I do not meet the above criteria. Can I still apply for my tuition fees to be covered?

If you do not meet all three of the above 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.

Where and how do I apply for funding?

Further Education students apply to their college for fees. This type of funding is called a 'Bursary'.

We have an online funding application where you apply for your bursary. If you have sent us your acceptance for a place on a course, you will be sent an email with a link to your online Bursary Funding application. The link will be sent to you beginning of May. We will send this to the email address you registered with us. (Please let us know if this has changed).

You should complete the online application and return this using the instructions provided. **Please remember to include any additional documents requested in the application.** You should do this even if you are still awaiting your exam results.

If you have not received this email from us by mid-July (and you have sent your acceptance form), then please contact our funding team via registryfunding@sruc.ac.uk

I am attending SRUC to complete an FE course, but I have already studied before, what happens in this case?

Awards will not normally be offered if you have previously received financial support for any full-time course that you studied over the age of 18 years or if you hold a qualification at HNC level or above. However, if you have previously undertaken a course while under the age of 18 years, you can apply for a second award if you are 18 years of age or over before the start of your new course.

The college may also make an award if your current course is a direct progression from your previous course if certain other specific criteria apply. You can contact the Student Funding Team for more advice if you fall into this category.

What funding is available for FE students?

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

Please note, the figures below are for 2020/21 and may change slightly for 2021/22.

If you're under 18 years old at the start date of your course, then an Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available based on your household income. In addition to EMA, all students under 18 years will receive help with travel expenses and essential course materials.

If household income is below £24,421 (£26,884 if more than one child in full-time education) you could receive £30 per week to help with your living costs.

- You do not need to pay an EMA back.
- You must meet the residency criteria.

Part-time students under 18 years old can also make an application for EMA.

If you turn 18 years old during your course, you will remain on EMA.

Further Education Bursary

This is available for Full-time students on a further education course. Funding will be allocated depending on age, household income and personal circumstances which will need to be proven with evidence. Current rates for FE bursary are as follows:

FE Bursary maintenance rate for students living at parental home	£84.30 per week	FE Bursary maintenance rate for Self-Supporting students	£106.53 per week
FE Care Experienced Bursary	£202.50 per week	N.B. Full time FE care experienced students can apply through the College for the FE Care Experienced Bursary. We will also pay you travel over and above this if you live more than 2 miles from your campus. Any student who has been in Care at some point in their lives can apply for this Bursary. You will have to provide us with a letter from your Social Worker to confirm you have experienced care.	

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Example of household income and the deduction from your award are shown below (based on a 41-week course)

Household income	Deduction from award
Less than £24,275.00	NIL
£24,275.00	£45.00
£35,000.00	£1,179.15
£41,735.00	£1,892.67
£45,000.00	£2,238.58

The bursary can also help towards the cost of accommodation, but again, this is dependent on your household income.

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.

My parent's income is above the threshold. Should I still apply for Bursary?

Yes, you should still apply as you may be eligible for your tuition fees and workwear, if you meet the residency criteria set out above.
Students under 18 are entitled to non means tested travel so may also be eligible for travel.

Can I apply for help with Travel Expenses?

Travelling expenses may be paid if you live more than two miles from the College and are calculated on the cheapest ticket available for public transport. If you are coming by car the mileage rate paid is 18.65 pence per mile. Expenses are capped at a maximum of £40 per week, should you require more assistance please enquire with a member of funding staff.

This allowance is subject to a financial assessment. Except for students under 18 years or those in receipt of an EMA who will be considered for all travelling expenses irrespective of parental income.

What happens if my FE bursary application is refused?

Awards made by SRUC are determined under the National Policy for Further Education Bursaries, the EMA Guidance and Procedures, the Further Education Bursaries (Scotland) Direction that are issued by the Scottish Executive. Your application for Further Education funding may be refused under these policies and criteria. However, you do have the right to appeal against any rejection, please do so by emailing your funding team giving all reasons to support your appeal e.g. why you changed the direction of your career.

You have no right of appeal if your application for funding has been refused due to failure to adhere to the criteria in the current policy documents, Further Education Bursaries (Scotland) Direction, and Education Maintenance Allowances (Scotland) Direction relating to your residency in Scotland.

I am a lone parent and need to put my children to a nursery/childminder while I am at college. Is there anything to help with childcare 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 all students?

Discretionary Fund

The purpose of the Discretionary Fund is to assist students who endure financial difficulties while attending college. 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:

1. Have previously applied for Bursary (even if not been awarded a Bursary).
and
2. 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 all 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, for example, from an NC course to HNC/D – 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 or 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.

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