

Applying for help meeting the cost of REGISTERED Childcare

Student parents are a big part of UWS and we are committed to providing as much support as we can to those who need it. If you are paying for registered childcare to allow you to study, we may be able to contribute towards the costs of this, but there may be limits to what we can consider. You can find out more in the Student Childcare Fund Factsheet, and the information detailed below.

Regulations:

1. We consider childcare for class time and an element of independent study. This is unlikely to be as much as 5 full days childcare, so you should consider your needs carefully before arranging childcare. We will consider a maximum of 4 days childcare but you are free to use this flexibly, i.e. 4 full days, or 3 full days and 2 half days.
2. We understand certain courses require students to attend placements etc. for 5 days per week. In those circumstances we will consider a maximum of 5 days childcare per week.
3. We understand that many childcare providers may offer discounted rates to those committing to full-time childcare, i.e. 5 days per week. If this discounted rate is cost effective, we may consider it.
4. We are unable to consider summer retainers or childcare costs during the summer vacation. We advise students to negotiate any retainer fees in advance of signing contracts.
5. We will query any childcare costs that appear excessive or unreasonable. Regional averages will be used to determine whether costs are excessive or within the regional norm.
6. We will not consider any costs associated with a parent or step-parent providing care for a child.
7. We can only contribute towards the costs of study related childcare, however, we need to know about any work related childcare costs you have, as well as any benefits you receive to help meet this cost, i.e. Tax Credits or Universal Credits.
8. Registered childcare providers must complete the childcare form as part of the application process. This is in addition to any forms you need to complete and provides confirmation of the care being provided and gives us the details required to confirm any claim made.
9. Our policy is to pay any childcare award directly to the provider and not to the student. We will therefore require all providers to provide their bank details.
10. Funds are limited and are not guaranteed until after an application has been fully assessed. We encourage all students to apply early to avoid disappointment.
11. Any funding for childcare is a contribution only and may not cover costs in full.

How to apply:

1. You must complete the relevant application based on the type of student you are. We explain the different student types at <https://www.uws.ac.uk/money-fees-funding/other-financial-support/discretionary-childcare-funds/> and you can download the correct application from this webpage.
2. This webpage also includes guidance notes that will help you correctly and accurately complete the application and that should be used by all students when completing the application.
3. The childcare forms must be completed and signed by your childcare providers. If you have more than one provider, you should submit a form from each provider.
4. If you are also eligible to apply for the Discretionary Funds, we will assess both your childcare and discretionary applications together, with the childcare application taking precedence.

