



Student
Services

Funding & Advice



UWS Childcare Fund Student Factsheet



Introduction

If you are a Paramedic, Nursing, or Midwifery student, or undertaking a research degree, such as PhD, DBA you may apply to this Fund for help meeting the cost of study-related registered childcare.

There is an expectation that you will first apply for all Government or Local Authority funding to which you are entitled. If you have additional costs that aren't covered by that funding, then you can apply to the UWS Childcare Fund for a contribution towards your remaining study-related childcare costs each academic year.

Government Funding

The Scottish Government provides a set number of Funded Early Learning and Childcare hours. It is your responsibility to apply for this funding if applicable. To find out more [visit Government Funding Early Learning and Childcare](#).

For out-of-school care – for example breakfast and after school clubs – there may be Local Authority discounts or funding available: contact your child's school or Local Authority for more information.

Study-related Childcare

University childcare funding is managed differently from the support you may previously have received, for example while at college. When we refer to 'study-related' childcare, this includes:

- Classroom-based learning or virtual attendance at lectures or seminars e.g. via Teams
- Travel-time when attending in person
- Independent study and research
- Placements
- Group work

Full-time students can apply for help with childcare costs of up to 5 days per week, for a maximum number of term weeks as follows:

- Paramedic, Pre-registration Nursing or Midwifery Full-Time (year-round) – up to 50 weeks.
- Doctoral Level Study (PhD, DBA) is considered on a case by basis, in relation to circumstances and study intensity; please contact Funding & Advice.

UWS Childcare Fund Awards

Where your application is successful the award will represent a contribution of up to 75% of eligible childcare costs, to a maximum award of £6,000 for a full academic year. Eligible childcare costs are limited to study-related, registered care, and the weeks detailed above, after statutory student childcare funding has been deducted.

How Much Childcare Do You Need?

Your schedule is likely to change throughout the academic session, so it's important to consider your childcare needs across the full year and plan ahead.

You should discuss your childcare needs in detail with your Childcare Provider. They will then be required to complete and sign the Childcare Provider Form, detailing and confirming your agreed childcare arrangements and costs, after any Government funding has been taken into account.

It is you, not the Childcare Provider, applying to the University for funding. Your childcare contract is between you and your Childcare Provider.

You remain ultimately responsible for any contract and payments to which you have committed.

Applying to the UWS Childcare Fund

The Fund opens as early as we can manage, usually before the start of the September term – keep an eye on the [Discretionary and Childcare Funds webpage](#) from mid-late July and apply as early as possible. Take care to focus on the funding section relevant to you as either a Paramedic, Nursing or Midwifery or Doctoral student; you will find the application form and guidance under 'UWS Childcare Fund'.

If you apply after the term begins then we will still aim to assess your application based on your costs for the whole academic year. For applications received later in the year we may not have the budget available to consider your full costs but might still be able to make a small contribution.

A Childcare Provider Form needs to be completed by your Childcare Provider. The form requires details of the number of days and weeks for which childcare is required and at what cost, as agreed between you and your Provider. We use this to assess the value of award, so it should be accurate and reflect the full academic year. Please ensure your Provider completes the form in full, signing everywhere indicated and including their bank details for payment purposes. Applications will only be accepted from those whose household income – excluding student support and child benefit – is under £25k per year (net) for students with up to 2 children or under £30k per year (net) for students with 3 or more children.

Processing Time

Applications can take up to 6 weeks to assess, and assessments may take longer during peak periods. If supporting evidence is missing or additional information is required, this may further delay the assessment process.

Payment

Remittance Advice will be sent to you and your Childcare Provider via email if an award is made. This will detail the award and payment plan. We only send this once, in advance of the first payment, so it's important you keep this for your records.

You are responsible for childcare payments until you receive our remittance advice. You remain responsible for any childcare costs not covered by the award and any additional costs incurred.

Payment is made direct to your Childcare Provider on a monthly basis, in advance. If you apply before the term begins then the first payment will be a double payment in late September.

Changes to your childcare requirements or costs should be brought to our attention as soon as possible. A reduction in your childcare usage or costs may result in an overpayment, which the University may seek to recover from your Childcare Provider(s). An increase in childcare usage and/or costs may require your award to be reassessed.

As funding is limited, we may not always be able to accommodate mid-year fee increases or additional childcare costs incurred later in the academic year. It is therefore important to ensure your childcare costs are accurate at the time of application.

Got a question?

Email our Funding and Advice team at fundingadvice@uws.ac.uk.



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