

# Students with Dependants

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## Being a Student

Student life can be a truly valuable experience; you make lifelong friends, discover new passions, you're surrounded by incredible resources with great access to knowledge, and you have the notion of working towards something worthwhile. Becoming a parent can be another incredibly rewarding part of life and in many ways define who you are. You may also find yourself at one point in life as a carer for an adult, or you may be responsible for family members in another country.

Combining education with any of the latter three can be very difficult, but there is help. This is a guide to what financial help there is; if you find that you are suffering in other ways, then speak directly to your university and to your GP, and seek out support groups within your university.

## Students with Children

Like many other students, you can apply for a tuition fee loan, maintenance loan, and perhaps a maintenance grant through Student Finance England (SFE). For the 2014/15 school year, you may also be able to apply for a [Childcare Grant](#), worth:

- up to £150.23 a week for 1 child
- up to £257.55 a week for 2 or more children

which you will not have to pay back. You can find out if you're eligible to apply on the [SFE](#) website. You can also still apply for [Child Tax Credit](#) for each child you care for.

You can also apply for a [Parents' Learning Allowance](#), worth up to £1,523 for the next academic year, which does not have to be paid back afterwards. Furthermore, if you are struggling to finance yourself throughout your studies, then SFE have an [Access to Learning Fund](#).

Take a look at this [government brochure](#) for more details and also information about how being in higher education can affect your benefits, and which loans and grants count as part of your income. [Student Parents](#) also

offers some great resources to help you as a parent in higher education.

## Students with Adult Dependants

The [Adult Dependants Grant](#) is available to people who are financially responsible for another adult, who themselves are not studying or receiving student finance. It is non-repayable, and can be worth up to £2,642. If you are a carer, then you will not be eligible to receive the Carer's Allowance if you are in full-time education. Contact [Carers UK](#) for further information on what you may be entitled to.

## Students with Dependants in Other Countries

When applying for a student visa, you can also apply for visas for dependants in your home country. A dependant is defined by the government as:

- your husband, wife or civil partner
- your unmarried or same-sex partner
- your child under 18 years old

You can apply if you are:

- sponsored by a higher education institution on a course at NQF level 7 or above that lasts 1 year or more
- a new government-sponsored student on a course that lasts 6 months or longer
- a Doctorate Extension Scheme student

The full details and application forms can be found on the [SFE](#) website. The [UK Council for International and Student Affairs](#) also provides detailed and useful information, including your [financial requirements](#) and what evidence you will need to provide.