



## Care to Learn 2025-26

You can get Care to Learn if you're a parent under 20 at the start of your course, the main carer for your child and you live in England. You must be a British citizen or have a legal right to live and study in England. Care to Learn funds are paid to the childcare provider.

Please note, you need to make a new application for each year you study.

### Support can be provided for

- travel to and from the childcare provider
- childcare costs to include deposits
- childcare taster session for up to 5 days
- retainer fees.

### Age eligibility

You must be aged 16-19 but under 20, on 31 August 2025

### Course eligibility

Care to Learn is only available for publicly-funded courses in England that take place in:

- schools
- sixth-forms in schools/colleges
- other colleges and learning providers, including Foundation Learning.

### Residency eligibility

- British citizens who hold a United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland passport
- Irish citizens
- European Union citizens or family members of EEA and Swiss workers (resident in the UK before 1 January 2021) with settled status
- students who are children of Turkish workers where the Turkish worker has been lawfully employed and resident in the UK before 1 January 2021
- British Dependent Territory Citizens (now known as British Overseas Territory Citizens)
- those whose passports have been endorsed to show they have right of abode in the UK
- those who have a certificate of naturalisation or registration as a British Citizen
- those with Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) visa who have been given Home Office permission to reside in the UK
- Refer to the funding guide for full listing of regulations:

**Advice: funding regulations for post-16 provision 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))**

**Eligible childcare providers**

The childcare provider must be one of the following:

- registered with Ofsted
- registered with a childminder agency
- a school.

**They can be a:**

- childminder
- preschool playgroup
- day nursery
- out of school club.

**Household income eligibility**

There is no household income eligibility to receive support from the Care to Learn Scheme.

**You're not eligible if you're:**

- 16-19 and classed as an overseas student
- 16-19 and enrolled on an HE qualification
- 16-19 and enrolled on an apprenticeship or T Level course.

**Apply now!**

The closing date for Care to Learn applications for the 2025 to 2026 academic year is 31 May 2026. Applications submitted after the closing date will not be paid.

To make an application, you will need to complete an online process. Cloud-based, it can be done on any device: PC, laptop, tablet, and mobile phone. Just click here: <https://COPC.paymystudent.com/portal/>

**After you've applied**

You must give us either:

- a copy of the child's birth certificate
- a letter confirming receipt of Child Benefit for that child.

Your childcare provider will only be paid after you've provided this information.

**If your application is successful**

You'll get a letter and a payment plan telling you what financial help you can get. The College will also get the payment plan to let them know when they'll be paid.

If you're eligible for travel costs, the College will be informed about these payments, and they will pay this to you.

**If your circumstances change**

You must report any changes to your:

- personal details
- childcare provider
- hours of childcare
- travel costs

- learning provider.

You can do this by [updating your online application](#).

### **Benefits**

Claiming Care to Learn will not affect your family's benefits or allowances.

### **Need help?**

Contact us

Telephone: [023 9421 1980](tel:02394211980)

Email: [bursary@copc.ac.uk](mailto:bursary@copc.ac.uk)