



## 20+ Childcare Bursary

If you're 20+ and experiencing hardship at the start of the academic year (31 August 2025), we may be able to offer financial support with course-related childcare costs.

Every application will be assessed on individual financial and childcare needs around your timetabled hours. Funds are limited, and financial support will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

In England, there are three government-funded early education schemes that offer free childcare for children aged two, three and four:

- [Help paying for childcare: Free education and childcare for 2-year-olds - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
- [Help paying for childcare: 15 hours free childcare for 3 and 4-year-olds - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
- [Get 30 hours free childcare: step by step - GOV.UK\(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

### Support categories

We could help with:

- childcare (Ofsted registered)
- from ages 0 – 15yrs
- up to 16yrs with a disability
- childcare not covered by the free government funding for children aged 2,3 and 4
- childcare that cannot be covered by a parent

### Course eligibility:

You could be eligible if your course is:

- funded directly by the ESFA
- funded by the local authority
- otherwise publicly funded and leading to a qualification accredited by Ofqual (up to and including Level 3) or on the approved list of qualifications
- a Further Education course or Traineeship
- part of the King's Trust Programme.

### Residency eligibility

To be eligible you must be:

- a British citizen who holds a United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland passport
- an Irish citizen
- a European Union citizen or family member of EEA and Swiss workers (resident in the UK before 1 January 2021) with settled status

- a child of Turkish workers where the Turkish worker has been lawfully employed and resident in the UK before 1 January 2021
- a British Dependent Territory Citizen (now known as British Overseas Territory Citizen)
- in possession of a passport endorsed to show you have right of abode in the UK
- a certificate of naturalisation or registration as a British Citizen
- in possession of a Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) visa who has been given HomeOffice permission to reside in the UK.

Please refer to paragraph 38 to 40 of the funding guide for full listing:

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

### **Household income eligibility**

The 20+ childcare bursary is available to eligible students over the age of 20 with a household income up to £35,000. It offers up to 75% towards the cost of childcare.

You will normally be assessed on the income of those you live with, students who live:

- with both parents/guardians or (stepparent/guardian), will be assessed on the income of both adults combined
- with a lone parent/guardian, will be assessed on the income of that adult
- with somebody else, where that person claims child benefit in respect of the student, will be assessed on the income of that adult(s).

If you live by yourself, you may or may not be considered independent:

- if your living costs are being paid by a parent, then you are considered dependent on that parent and will be assessed as outlined above
- if you meet your living costs in full through work and/or benefits, then as long as nobody is claiming child benefit relating to you, you will be assessed as independent, and no other income will be considered.

If you live with somebody other than the situations outlined above, applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**If your annual household income is £35,000 or less, you could receive 75% towards the costs of childcare.**

### **Household income evidence**

You would need to provide the following evidence:

- the last three (or less if claim has been made recently) full Universal Credit statements showing take-home pay and payment
- all pages of a tax credit award notice showing finalised income for 2024/25 and dependents
- P60/last three months or 12 weeks of pay slips
- welfare benefits letter showing current and active claim
- latest verified accounts of self-employment including latest submitted tax return, pension statement and details of income from all other sources such as shares, investments, savings or rental income

**Documents provided must be for a named person at the same address**

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

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

**Apply now!**

To make an application for financial support in 2025/26, you will need to complete an application on the online bursary portal called Pay My Student. This is cloud-based, so can be done on any device: PC, laptop, tablet, and mobile phone.

Access to Pay My Student is only available once you have made an application for a course or fully enrolled with the College.

To register and apply for student finance click at <https://COPC.paymystudent.com/portal/>

**Still need help?**

Contact our friendly and knowledgeable finance support team.

Telephone: 02394211980

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