

2025/26

**Higher Education Discretionary and
Childcare Fund and Lone Childcare
Grant**



How we use your information

UHI is committed to ensuring that the processing of personal data is only undertaken in the legitimate operation of the university's/college's business. UHI is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office and collects/uses information (data) about its students and stores it in accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation and UK Data Protection Act 2018.

The data controller is the university. The personal data that you supply to us may be processed by UHI or any of the academic partners that make up UHI. All processing will be undertaken in accordance with current data protection legislation.

UHI already holds data about you relating to your application to study with us. In assessing your eligibility for funding, we will ask you a series of questions and your answers will be linked to the student record that we already hold. Information that you provide in this context will be accessible to a limited number of staff on a need to know basis.

Some of the funding available is means tested which means you may need to provide evidence of your personal income and benefits you may be currently receiving, or income and/or benefits currently received by members of your family/household. Any evidence you provide is used for the purpose of assessing your eligibility for student funding e.g. Further Education bursary, childcare, discretionary funds and Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). If you are awarded childcare funds we may share limited information about your award with your childcare provider. We may also share limited information with approved taxi companies or landlords, where we make payments for these expenses. If you withhold the information required, we will not be able to fully assess your entitlement to receive funding.

Our legal basis for processing this information is that it is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or under the official authority vested in us. This means, we are responsible for the distribution of public funds and must be able to demonstrate individual's eligibility to such funding. We also have a legal obligation to share statistical data and details about the levels of funding we pay out to students with the Scottish Funding Council www.sfc.ac.uk/home/privacy.aspx Personal data may be shared with other official bodies where the law requires us to do so e.g. the Benefits Agency, with managing authorities responsible for European Social Funded (ESF) programmes or in response to a court order. If during the course of your studies you are overpaid funds to which you are not entitled, we may pass your personal data on to a debt recovery agency to recover funds on our behalf, if the money has not been repaid.

In addition to this, your information may be shared with our internal and external auditors as part of routine audits in order to demonstrate our legal compliance with the Financial Regulations we must adhere to. All records are retained in line with UHI/college records retention schedule.

If you have any concerns regarding the processing of your personal data please contact the UHI Data Protection Officer: dataprotectionofficer@uhi.ac.uk or for UHI Inverness data.controller.ic@uhi.ac.uk. You also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) www.ico.org.uk The ICO is the independent authority responsible for upholding the law in relation to the processing of personal data. You have the right to ask the university/college for a copy of the personal data we hold about you free of charge.

The following rights are rights of data subjects: The right to access your personal data; the right to rectification if the personal data we hold about you is incorrect; the right to restrict processing of your personal data.

The following rights apply only in certain circumstances: The right to object to our processing of your personal data; the right to request erasure (deletion) of your personal data.

NOTES FOR COMPLETION AND RETURN

PLEASE NOTE: If possible, all evidence should be provided as a scanned or saved document. If you use online banking, you will be able to export your statement to a PDF.

Please **DO NOT** send a hard copy of an application and/or any evidence by post. Applications should be submitted by email.

Do not submit a copy of this form if you are enrolled at one of the below, as you can **ONLY APPLY ONLINE** via your HUB/Student Journey account;

UHI Argyll - UHI Inverness - UHI Moray - UHI North, West and Hebrides - UHI Perth

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS. Continue any section on a separate sheet if required

REMINDER

It is important to remember to provide the necessary evidence, along with your application form. Failure to do so will mean your application cannot be processed.

FOR OFFICE
USE ONLY

SECTION 1: PERSONAL DETAILS

Surname

Forename

Title Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Miss ☐ Ms ☐ Other

Date of Birth (DD/MM/YY) Age at start of course (years)

Student Number

Home Address

Postcode

Telephone (inc. code)

TERM TIME Address (if different from HOME address)

Postcode

Telephone (inc. code)

Fax (inc. code)

Email

Are you care experienced? Yes ☐ No ☐

SECTION 2: COURSE DETAILS

Course Code

or (code is on your student card and/or offer letter)

Course Title

Is your course Full-time ☐ Part-time ☐ Evening ☐ Other ☐

Year of course 1st ☐ 2nd ☐ 3rd ☐ 4th ☐ Taught Post Grad ☐

Course Start Date (dd/mm/yy) End date (dd/mm/yy)

SECTION 3: WHERE YOU LIVE

Do you live On your own ☐ with parent(s) ☐ College accommodation ☐
with others ☐

Student Ref)

SECTION 4: DETAILS OF YOUR SPOUSE / PARTNER

Do you have a spouse / partner?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If you answered **NO** to the above, please go to Section 5

If you answered **YES** please complete this Section

Spouse/Partner's Surname

Spouse/Partner's Forename(s)

Title

Mr ☐

Mrs ☐

Miss ☐

Ms ☐

Other

Is he/she in 'Further or
Higher Education'?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If you have answered **YES** please complete this Section

Name of College/University
he/she attends

Course Title

Year of course

1st ☐

2nd ☐

3rd ☐

4th ☐

Taught Post Grad ☐

SECTION 5: DETAILS OF DEPENDANT CHILDREN

Do you and/or your spouse/
partner have your own, or the care of
other, dependant children?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If you answered **NO** to the above, please got to Section 8

If you answered **YES** please complete this Section

Name of child or dependant	Date of birth	Are they			
		Pre-school age	In Primary/Secondary Education	In Further/Higher Education	Employed

Please give the following details for each child in 'Further or Higher Education'

Name of child or dependant	Name of Further/Higher Education institution attended	Course Title	Year of course (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd etc.)

Continue on a separate sheet if required - please tick box if you have done so ☐

SECTION 6: CHILDCARE SUPPORT

Do you wish to apply for help with
childcare costs?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If you have answered **NO** to the above, please go to Section 8
If you have answered **YES** to the above, please complete this Section

Do you wish to apply for the Lone
Parent Childcare Grant

Yes ☐ No ☐

If you have answered **NO** to the above, please go to Section 8
If you have answered **YES** to the above, please complete this Section and Section 7

PLEASE NOTE that childcare costs can only be awarded for formal registered childcare

1st Childcare Provider

Contact Person

Address

Postcode

Contact Telephone Number

Registration Number

Name of Child

Cost per week

 £

Name of Child

Cost per week

 £

Total Cost per week

 £

(IF REQUIRED)

2nd Childcare Provider

Contact Person

Address

Postcode

Contact Telephone Number

Registration Number

Name of Child

Cost per week

 £

Name of Child

Cost per week

 £

Total cost per week

 £

Continue on a separate sheet if required - please tick box if you have done so ☐

If you are not successful in receiving an award for your childcare and you have placed your child in either a College Nursery or with another provider, YOU are responsible for the cost and NOT UHI

SECTION 7: APPLICATION FOR LONE PARENT CHILDCARE GRANT

Please provide details of the registered formal childcare costs you expect to pay during the period 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026. If your course begins in January or April, the 12 month period we need information for will begin on 1st January and 1st April respectively. The childcare provider you use must be registered with Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWIS) and must provide their registration number in the box provided. We will not pay for informal childcare, for example, a friend or relative. **Please note that we regularly ask childcare providers to confirm that your child/children is/are registered with them. You must advise us immediately if you change childcare provider or of any change in your circumstances that may affect your entitlement to this grant. If we have paid you more than you are entitled to, we will ask you to pay this back. If you make a false claim, we will seek prosecution.**

We will deduct any payments you expect to receive from other sources from your childcare costs for the year. If you expect to receive a payment from your local authority for pre-school education, you should tell us how much you expect this to be, even if you are waiting to claim this back from the authority.

Childcare cost for the year (please enter the total cost of registered formal childcare that you expect to pay):

£

Childcare costs you expect to receive from other sources (Please enter the total childcare costs you expect to receive from other sources):

£

Total childcare costs (Please enter the total childcare costs for one childcare provider, less what you expect to receive from other sources)

£

Details of children	Children's Full Name	Date of Birth

To be filled in by your childcare provider, if you do not have an agreed contract form

I confirm that I have agreed to provide childcare to the named child/children above and I will advise you immediately of any change to this. (Please note that it would be helpful if you could keep a record of when the above child/children are in your care and the cost of this care, as we may ask you for this information some time in future.)

Name or Company Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone Number

My SCSWIS Registration Number is

Manager or Proprietor's Name:

Signature

Date

SECTION 8: MONTHLY INCOME

Please use Bank Statements, Payslips and Award Letters to give a full account of your income, as any award will be based on the information submitted.

Student Loan

	Award Amount		Monthly
Yours	£	or	£
Did you apply for the maximum entitlement	Yes ☐	No	☐
Your Spouse/Partner	£	or	£
Did they apply for the maximum entitlement	Yes ☐	No	☐
Dependants or other family member in household	£	or	£
Did they apply for the maximum entitlement	Yes ☐	No	☐

SAAS Grant/Allowances (please see www.saas.gov.uk for more information on SAAS Grants)

Young Student Bursary/Independent Student's Bursary	£	or	£
Your Spouse/Partner's Bursary	£	or	£
Lone Parent Grant	£	or	£
Dependants or other family member in household	£	or	£
Care Leavers Grant	£		£

Full Time/Part Time Employment Income

Yours	£
Your Spouse/Partner	£
Other household member(s)	£

Household Income (partner, spouse parents, dependants)

Maintenance & Child Support Payments	£
Pension – State/Works/Widow(ers)	£
Job Seekers Allowance	£
Sickness Benefit/Statutory Sick Pay	£
Incapacity Benefit/Employment and Support Allowance	£
Income Support	£
Universal Credit Standard Element (single or couple)	£
Housing Benefit/Housing Element of Universal Credit	£
Working Tax Credit	£
Child Tax Credit/Children Element of Universal Credit	£
Child Benefit	£
Pension Credit	£
Carers Allowance/Carer Support Payment	£

Any Other Income (eg. from lets and rentals)

Please state:	£
Please state:	£
TOTAL	£

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary

Please tick if you have done so ☐

SECTION 9: MONTHLY EXPENDITURE

**FOR
INSTITUTION
USE ONLY**

Please use Bank Statements, Household bills etc to give a full account of your expenditure, as any award will be based on the information submitted.

Housing & Living Costs

Monthly

Mortgage/Rent	£
---------------	---

£

Council Tax	£
-------------	---

£

Food/Housekeeping	£
-------------------	---

f

Household fuel cost (eq. gas, electric, oil etc) £

f

Telephone and/or Broadband £

£

Child Support Payments

£

Other regular monthly expenditure including loans and credit cards (please detail)

£

£

f

£

£

f

f

f

f

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士

士

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1

1

1

Childcare Costs

Formal Childcare costs (from Section 6) £

£

Childcare travel costs	£
------------------------	---

f

TOTAL	£
--------------	----------

f

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary. Please tick if you have done so.

SECTION 10: SAVINGS

Source:

£

Source:

£

Source:

£

SECTION 11: REASON FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Are you applying for;

Discretionary Fund

☐

Childcare Fund

☐

Additional information to support your application;

SECTION 12: BANK/BUILDING SOCIETY ACCOUNT DETAILS

Name and Address of Bank/
Building Society

Postcode

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Name on the Account

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Account Number

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Sort Code

--	--	--	--	--	--

Building Society Roll/
Reference Number

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SECTION 13: DISCLOSURE OF AWARD INFORMATION

UHI and its Academic Partners are committed to ensuring that the processing of personal data is only undertaken in the legitimate operation of the University's business. UHI and its Academic Partners collect and uses information (data) about its students and stores it in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018.

We will share details of the level of your funding award and your status with the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) along with some anonymous statistical data about you. This will be used by the SFC to assist with the calculation of future discretionary budgets that UHI will be awarded. In addition, we may share relevant information with your childcare provider and/or your landlord regarding our financial contribution towards your childcare and/or rent costs. Over and above this, we will only share information with third parties where we are obliged to do so by law e.g. to assist with the prevention or detection of crime or fraud.

SECTION 14: DECLARATION AND DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge, all the information given in this form is true.

I understand that if I give false information, or withhold relevant information, my application may be cancelled and, if necessary, action will be taken against me to recover any money paid to me.

I understand that I am liable for any outstanding amounts due to third parties which are not covered by any award made to me.

I understand that I may be required to provide documentary evidence of all my income and expenditure while attending the institution. I agree to refund on demand any overpayment made due to

- The Institution's miscalculation
- Re-assessment of my eligibility to an award
- Re-assessment of my entitlement due to changes in my circumstances
- Unsatisfactory personal conduct, progress and/or attendance
- Leaving my course early
- Non-compliance with the institution's policies

I undertake to inform the Institution of any changes in my or my family's financial circumstances that may affect my award.

I understand that the Institution reserves the right to re-assess my entitlement to support.

PLEASE NOTE

- All information in this form will be treated as strictly confidential by all persons through whose hands it may pass.
- The Institution is under a duty to protect the public funds it administers and to this end may use the information provided on this form for the prevention and detection of fraud.
- Additionally, where funds are payable for third party services, such as rent or childcare, whether paid directly to the third party or not, the Institution may need to discuss with that third party, only information relevant to your eligibility for continued payment of the award.
- The Institution is registered under the 1998 Data Protection Act. Under 'the Act' the information in this form will be stored on a computer system for the purposes of assessment and payment.

Photocopies of the following documents should be submitted to support your application:

SAAS Award Letter and Student Loan Payment Schedule (where applicable)	☐
Council Tax Letter/Book	☐
Mortgage Statement/Tenancy/Lease Agreement (showing your name and address)	☐
Childcare details/contract (where applicable)	☐
Tax Credit Award Notice/Universal Credit Statement (where applicable) (ALL PAGES)	☐
Loans and Credit Card Statement(s) (where applicable)	☐
Estimate of materials (for part-time course only)	☐
Timetable (for part-time course only)	☐
Two recent and consecutive months bank statements	☐
Three months payslips for you and spouse/partner (where applicable)	☐
Proof of lone parent status if apply for Lone Parent Childcare Grant	☐

Additionally

Have you signed and dated the form?

Answered all questions applicable to you?

I confirm I have read and understood the Privacy Notice and consent to my data being processed accordingly.

Signature

Date

Information and Guidance Notes

1. What is the Higher Education Discretionary Fund?

If you are a full time or part time student, the Higher Education Discretionary Fund is intended to provide grant support to enable you to attend a course where you would not have been able to because of financial difficulties. The funds are paid in addition to any other forms of student support and you are expected to take reasonable steps to maximise your income and minimise your expenditure while undertaking your course. Assistance for part time is limited to help with course related costs (including childcare costs).

2. What is the Higher Education Childcare Fund?

If you are a full time student, the Higher Education Childcare Fund is intended to help with the cost of childcare while you attend a course where these costs have/will result in financial difficulties. The funds are paid in addition to any other forms of student support and you are expected to take reasonable steps to maximise your income and minimise your expenditure while undertaking your course. If you are a part time student or a Taught Post Graduate student, assistance for childcare costs will be considered from the Higher Education Discretionary Fund.

3. What is the Lone Parent Childcare Grant?

If you are a full time student and a lone parent you are eligible to apply for a payment of up to a maximum of £1,215 per year from the Childcare Funds to assist with formal childcare costs. To be eligible you must have taken out your full entitlement of all other available support e.g. student loan, bursaries and Lone Parent Grant. Any costs above this amount can be met from the Childcare Fund if you are a lone parent. Students who are not lone parents can have childcare costs funded through the Childcare Fund.

4. What kind of information will I be asked to provide?

You must complete all sections of the form that apply to you. The information is necessary for your application to be processed. Your award will be decided on the information you include in the application. For this reason you should complete the income and expenditure section with care, making sure you include all items after making reasonable reductions in your expenditure to reflect your student status. You are required to enclose copies of documentary evidence of income and expenditure with your application. If you are a lone parent applying for the Lone Parent Childcare Grant you will be required to provide proof of your lone parent status. Failure to submit documentary evidence may result in a delay in processing your application.

5. What courses are eligible?

You must be studying a Higher Education (HE) course such as an HNC, HND, Degree or Post Graduate and meet the SAAS residency requirements for a Student Loan. Higher Education Discretionary Funds are available for full or part time study. Higher Education Childcare Funds are available for full time study only. Childcare costs for part time HE students can be met by the Higher Education Discretionary Fund provided the childcare is formal or through a registered childcare provider. Students in receipt of a Nursing and Midwifery Student Bursary are not eligible for assistance from the Discretionary Fund.

6. What if I have studied before?

You can apply for these funds even if you have studied before. You need to complete an application for each year of the course.

7. When should I apply?

You should apply as soon as possible. The Higher Education Childcare Fund and Higher Education Discretionary Fund are limited funds and applications will be processed in date order of receipt of an application.

8. How long will the support last?

Support may be for your full period of study during the academic year or for a specific period of hardship.

9. How will I be assessed/how much will I receive?

Applications are assessed according to your individual circumstances. An award will take into account your and your household's income and expenditure and the support that they can give you while you study. So there is no set amount awarded for particular circumstances. You will be sent an award letter giving details of your award and what the money has been awarded for.

10. Will an award affect my benefits?

Few Higher Education students get benefits, but if you do, an award for childcare and associated travel costs should not affect any benefits as it is purely for the cost of your childcare. An award from Higher Education Discretionary Funds for accommodation etc. may affect the benefits you get. It is your responsibility to declare receipt of these funds to any Agency providing you with financial assistance/benefits. The award letter we send you gives details of your award and what the money has been awarded for. This letter will help the Benefits Agency determine if the funds will affect what you get from them.

11. How will the information be processed?

All information supplied will be treated confidentially and only used for the processing and administration of the student funds. The information will be stored under the terms of the EU General Data Protection Regulation and UK Data Protection Act 2018 on computer and paper systems at the institution.

12. How will I know if I am going to get an award?

All correspondence regarding your application and award will be by email, unless you applied online at UHI Argyll, UHI Inverness, UHI Moray, UHI North, West and Hebrides, or UHI Perth where your notifications will be sent via your HUB/Student Journey account.

13. How will I be paid?

Details of your payments will be notified to you in your letter of award.

14. What are my responsibilities?

It is your responsibility to contact the partner institution and report changes in circumstances that might change your entitlement to support from these funds. You are liable to repay any amounts received to which you are not entitled because of:

- incorrect/incomplete information on the application form.
- failure to notify the institution of changes to circumstances. The institution may conduct a sample check of applications to ensure that claimed expenditure is actually being incurred. You may be required to provide proof of actual expenditure later in the year.

15. Where do I send the form back to?

Completed application forms along with supporting documentation of income and expenditure should be emailed to the college where you are enrolled.

16. Can I appeal?

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of your application, you have the right to request a review of your application, if you are still not satisfied then you can appeal against the decision. Information on how to request a review/appeal against the decision will be given in your decision letter.

17. How can I find out more?

The partner institution you are attending will offer a range of information, guidance and support services where specialist staff will deal with your enquiry. They also have copies of the relevant funding policies that are available, on request.