

Childcare Fund Guidance

Childcare fund application – Information

Hertford Regional College can support your childcare costs whilst you attend your course through the 20+ Childcare Fund and the Advanced Learner Loan Bursary childcare element.

These funds provide financial support to help students overcome the specific financial barriers to participation that they face so they can remain in education.

Who can apply?

- If you are over the age of 20 and have a dependent child or children.
- You must be enrolled on an eligible course for childcare funding, and you are required to utilise the free early education and childcare funding on the days you attend college.

Can I apply if my parents look after my child?

All funding for childcare cannot be provided to:

- fund informal childcare, for example, provided by a relative
- set up childcare places or to make a financial contribution to the costs of a crèche

What type of childcare provider do you support?

All childcare providers must be Ofsted registered on the compulsory part of the Ofsted General Childcare Register and/or the Early Years Register.

How to apply

20+ Childcare Fund

If you are aged 20 years and older and not entitled to the Advanced Learner Loan.

- Apply through Pay My Student for Bursary funding and request support for Childcare.
- Complete the questionnaires within the application.
- Complete all details of the childcare provider.
- Supply all evidence requested

19+ with an Advanced Learner Loan

If you are aged 19 years and older and are in receipt of an Advanced Learner Loan.

- Apply through Pay My Student for Bursary funding and request support for Childcare.
- Complete the questionnaires within the application.
- Complete all details of the childcare provider.
- Supply all evidence requested

Childcare Fund Guidance

What happens after my I submit application?

- Your application will be assessed, and you will be notified of the outcome which you can follow through Pay My Student.
- We will contact your childcare provider to supply the relevant information and confirmation of costs of your childcare.
- If your application is successful, your childcare provider will be notified of the outcome.

Will you cover all my childcare costs?

Childcare funding is capped per student at:

Full-time - £5000

Part-time - £3500

Learners must be enrolled on an eligible course for childcare funding and are required to utilise the free Early Education and Childcare funding on the days you attend college. Evidence will be obtained from your childcare provider.

Please note, this cap is Per Student and not per child.

Do you cover costs for food/nappies and other items?

No, the costs awarded to you is for the cost of childcare only. We cannot support additional costs for nappies, food, trips & visits and any other items that do not form the basis of actual childcare.

What happens if I am unable to attend college and my child does not attend the childcare provider?

Funding is subject to attendance and will be confirmed with the childcare provider and our attendance records. Hertford Regional College will only award payments for actual attendance by both child and student.

Childcare Fund Guidance

How will I be paid?

All payments for childcare are made directly to the childcare provider.

This will be confirmed to you and with the childcare provider once your application is assessed and awarded.

Childcare payments are made 1 month in advance to the provider and are made monthly. The payment schedule will be sent to you and the childcare provider.

All payments are made by BACS. We will obtain this information from the childcare provider.

Payments are made in advance to ensure that we support you to overcome the specific financial barriers to participation that you may face so you can remain in education and attend your course without financial burden.

Can I be paid directly for childcare and pay my provider?

No, all payments are made directly to the childcare provider. We are unable to make payments to you.

The cost of my childcare has gone up after I have applied can I apply for extra funding?

If there is an increase in childcare funding costs throughout the academic year, prior notification must be provided with advance notice as soon as possible for assessment.

Please note that we may not be able to meet any increase in funding and should this be the case then the shortfall will be required to be paid by you the student directly.

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Part-time - £3500