

NORTH EAST
SCOTLAND
COLLEGE



CHILDCARE FUNDING

2026-2027

INTRODUCTION

We are delighted you have chosen to study at North East Scotland College.

At the College, we have funds which you may be able to access to help towards your registered childcare costs, whilst studying at College.

Eligible students will be invited to apply for Childcare Funding via an online application form.

The closing date for applications will be the 31 October 2026.

As funds are limited, it is important that you submit your application as soon as possible.



It is important to arrange childcare well in advance of the start date of your course. The actual days and times of your attendance at College, may not be known until just before you actually start your course but you are advised to make provisional plans, confirming the actual arrangements once your timetable is known.

REGISTERED CHILDCARE

Most students will only attend College for a given number of hours each week and therefore will not require childcare for a full week. **The College will only cover childcare costs for the days you are timetabled to attend College.** Which provider you choose is your choice, providing they are registered with the Care Inspectorate (www.careinspectorate.com) but remember, you have to be able to drop your child at the Childcare Provider and then be in College on time for your classes.

If you require details of childcare providers who are registered with the Care Inspectorate within your area, please contact your local Childcare Information Service or visit the following websites:

Registered childcare providers:
www.careinspectorate.com

For information on Universal Credit:
www.gov.uk/universal-credit



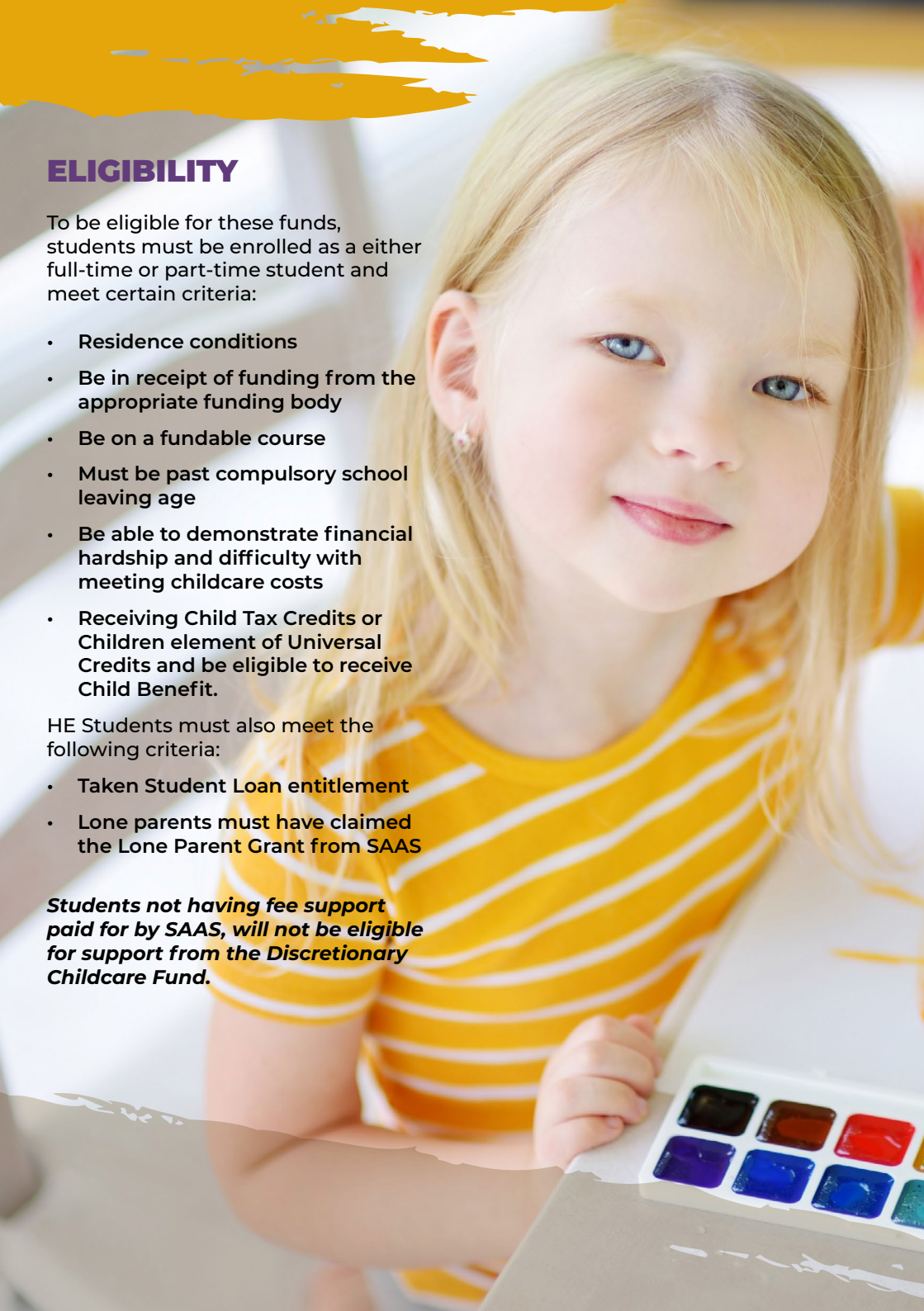
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The College receives funding to assist FE and HE students with registered childcare costs. The Discretionary Childcare Fund is means tested on household income. Students should be aware that the College may not cover the full cost of their childcare. **Any outstanding amount is the student's responsibility.**

Students with a household income for 2025/26, which was less than **£39,000**, may be eligible for assistance. However, if the household income was more than £39,000 in 2025/26 but will be substantially reduced in 2026/27, you may still be eligible. If you think this may apply to you, please contact childcarefunding@nescol.ac.uk to enquire further.

The following table shows what percentage of childcare costs you may receive based on your household income for the previous tax year:

HOUSEHOLD INCOME	CHILDCARE ALLOWANCE
£0 to £27,000	100%
£27,001 to £30,000	80%
£30,001 to £33,000	60%
£33,001 to £36,000	40%
£36,001 to £39,000	20%



ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for these funds, students must be enrolled as a either full-time or part-time student and meet certain criteria:

- Residence conditions
- Be in receipt of funding from the appropriate funding body
- Be on a fundable course
- Must be past compulsory school leaving age
- Be able to demonstrate financial hardship and difficulty with meeting childcare costs
- Receiving Child Tax Credits or Children element of Universal Credits and be eligible to receive Child Benefit.

HE Students must also meet the following criteria:

- Taken Student Loan entitlement
- Lone parents must have claimed the Lone Parent Grant from SAAS

Students not having fee support paid for by SAAS, will not be eligible for support from the Discretionary Childcare Fund.

LONE PARENT CHILDCARE GRANT

Lone Parents are entitled to receive up to a maximum of **£1,215** towards registered childcare costs, after which they can receive additional help from Childcare Funds at the discretion of the College.

To be eligible for these funds, students must meet the same criteria as the Discretionary Childcare Funding, with the exception of the following:

- **Students paying their own fees are still eligible to apply for the Lone Parent Childcare Grant.**

FAQs

What happens if I am awarded assistance with childcare costs?

If childcare assistance is allocated, payments will be paid directly to the Childcare Provider. As the childcare contract is between you and your chosen Childcare Provider, if you require additional childcare out with your college timetabled days, it will be your responsibility to pay for this or, in the case of in-service days, you should notify childcarefunding@nescol.ac.uk to request additional assistance with the cost of these.

Is there a closing date for Childcare Funding?

The closing date for applications is 31 October 2026. Applications received after this date are subject to funds being available and may not be back dated to the start of the academic year, this includes additional requests for support such as in-service days.

What happens if I leave College?

It is your responsibility to advise the Childcare Provider and the Childcare Funding Team that you no longer require childcare. If you leave the College and there has been an overpayment made to your Childcare Provider, the College will recover these costs from you.



CONDITIONS OF AWARD

It is the student's responsibility to complete all relevant applications and provide the requested documentation when applying for Childcare Funding. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the processing of your application or a loss of Childcare Funding.

Payment to your chosen Childcare Provider is dependent on 100% attendance and positive engagement with your studies. Any withheld or part payment, resulting in arrears to your Childcare Provider, will be your **(the student's)** responsibility.

AM I ELIGIBLE?

To discuss your eligibility, please email **childcarefunding@nescol.ac.uk** or if you wish to make an appointment please call **01224 612284 (Aberdeen)** or **01346 586129 (Fraserburgh)**.





For any childcare query, please email:



childcarefunding@nescol.ac.uk



www.nescol.ac.uk

T: 0300 330 5550

E: enquiry@nescol.ac.uk

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The details given in this publication are based on information available at the time of printing in August 2026 and North East Scotland College accepts no responsibility for any changes or amendments by other agencies.