



University of the
Highlands and Islands
Lews Castle College

Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd
agus nan Eilean
Colaisde a' Chaisteil

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES

SESSION 2020-21



This guide gives a brief summary of the information relating to the provision of Education Maintenance Allowances.

1. What is an EMA?

EMAs are payments to young people who either stay on at school after completing 4th year, or decide to leave school and continue in full-time or part-time further education at college.



2. How old must I be to receive an EMA?

To be eligible to receive an EMA students must have completed 4th year at school and have passed their school leaving date. Students are usually 16 when they start to receive an EMA and can continue to be paid in this way up to their 20th birthday. However, once they reach the age of 18 (must be 18 on the course start date) they may be better off by applying for a bursary instead. However, if you turn 18 within the Academic Year you will not be able to switch from EMA to Bursary funding.

3. How much will I receive?

The amount of your EMA depends on your parents' income, or if you are married, the income of your husband or wife, and on whether you live at home or have gone to a college away from your home area. The maximum weekly amounts for 2020-2021 are:

| | At home | Away from home |
|-----|----------------|-----------------------|
| EMA | £30.00 | £42.35* |

*this means away from home students could receive upto £72.35 per week.

4. Will I get help with travel expenses?

If you live within 2 miles of the college you will be expected to pay your own travel costs. Students ages 16-17 who live more than 2 miles from the college will be issued with a travel pass.

5. How much will my parents/husband/wife/civil partner have to pay?

EMA students in session 2020/2021 whose parents' annual income after certain deductions is up to £26,884 will receive EMA of £30 per week if there is more than one dependant child in the household. For families with only one dependent child an EMA of £30 per week will be paid if their income is up to £24,421 per annum.



6. Will I have to pay fees?

Fees will normally be paid, irrespective of parental/spouse's/partner's income, for all **full time** students who fulfil the residential qualification – that is whose family home has been in the UK for three years before they start the course.

7. Are all students eligible to receive a EMA?

No – payment of an EMA depends on parental income and the amount payable varies as detailed in paragraph 5 above. Students must also be in the correct age group and must of completed 4th year at school. Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales each have their own EMA Schemes. You must apply to the EMA for the country you're studying in.

8. If I need a special uniform or protective clothing for my course will I have to pay for it myself?

All full-time students in the EMA age group – usually 16-17 years of age will receive necessary supplies for their course, including protective clothing, paid for from the college allocation, whether or not they receive weekly EMA payments.

9. Are there any conditions attached to the bursary/EMA?

Yes. When you complete your on-line EMA application you will be required to confirm that you agree to the Terms and Conditions as stated on the on-line application . This is a contract by which you agree that you will attend college regularly and that you will make good progress in your studies. **EMA students must maintain at least 100% attendance every week or they will lose the whole payment for that week.** Before the first payment can be made, all EMA students must sign a Learning Agreement, promising to attend college regularly, and to maintain good progress and good behaviour during their studies. Their EMA Payments may be stopped if they fail to keep to this Learning Agreement.



Differences between EMAs and Bursaries

- Every student receiving an EMA will have to sign a Learning Agreement at the start of the course, after discussion with their Course Tutor or Guidance Staff. This Agreement will be subject to review during the year.
- EMAs will not be paid to students during the October, Christmas and Easter holidays.