

# Don't let **money worries** cost you your education

The **Student Assistance Fund** provides financial support to **full- or part-time** students who are experiencing financial difficulties while attending college.

## WHAT CAN I USE IT FOR?

The **Student Assistance Fund** is available to help with costs such as:

Books  
& class  
materials

Rent  
and other  
utility  
bills

Food

Essential  
travel

Childcare  
costs

Medical  
costs

## WHAT COSTS ARE NOT COVERED?

Tuition fees, registration fees, student loan repayments or any costs borne by your college are not covered by the **Student Assistance Fund**.

## WHO CAN APPLY?

Students on full- or part-time courses leading to a higher education award (National Framework of Qualifications level 6-10) in Irish universities, institutes of technology and other approved colleges can apply.

Part-time students who are lone parents are encouraged to apply as additional funding has been made available to support this group. Support from the **Student Assistance Fund** may also be available to students studying for a Professional Master of Education, for example to cover the cost of school placements.



## HOW DO I APPLY?

If you are in financial difficulty, you should contact the access or student services office in your college for more information on how to apply for the **Student Assistance Fund**. It is important to apply as soon as you can. Some colleges have a closing date for applications and you should check when this is.

## WHAT DOCUMENTATION DO I NEED TO APPLY?

Your college will advise you on the documentation needed to support your application to the **Student Assistance Fund**. This may include proof of your own or your parents' income, as appropriate, and receipts for costs such as rent, bills or childcare.

## IS IT CONFIDENTIAL?

The **Student Assistance Fund** is administered on a strictly confidential basis by your college. Any information you provide as part of your application is protected under the data protection regulations of your college\*.

## HOW WILL MY APPLICATION BE ASSESSED?

Your individual circumstances and financial means will be taken into consideration by your college when assessing your application to the **Student Assistance Fund**. Final decisions on awards may be taken by a small committee, including the access officer and student welfare officer.

## WHAT ARE THE FUNDING AMOUNTS?

Funding amounts vary and will be determined by your college following an assessment process.

See [www.studentfinance.ie](http://www.studentfinance.ie) for more information

\* To comply with European Social Fund reporting and audit requirements, colleges return data on recipients of the Student Assistance Fund to the Higher Education Authority.

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