

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,
heating
& lighting
& 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.

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 spending time in the Gaeltacht.



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 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.

The Student Assistance Fund is managed by the Higher Education Authority on behalf of the Department of Education and Skills. The Student Assistance Fund is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Social Fund as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020.