Dependants' Grants -
Adult Dependents’ Grant and Parents’ Learning Allowance

What is Adult Dependents’ Grant?

What is Parents’ Learning Allowance?

How do students apply for Adult Dependents’ Grant and/or Parents’ Learning Allowance?
What is Adult Dependants’ Grant?

Adult Dependants’ Grant can help cover the extra costs a student might have if an adult depends on them financially. It’s based on their household income and doesn’t usually have to be paid back.

Who qualifies for Adult Dependants’ Grant?

Full-time undergraduate and full-time postgraduate Initial Teacher Training (ITT) students studying at universities and colleges in the UK can apply for Adult Dependants’ Grant if they have an adult who depends on them financially.

The adult can be their partner or another adult, for example, their parent, but they can’t count grown-up children as adult dependants.

If the adult dependant is not the student’s husband, wife, civil partner or partner, then their income must be less than £3,796 during the 2017/18 academic year for the student to get Adult Dependants’ Grant.

They can only get one Adult Dependants’ Grant even if they have more than one adult who depends on them, and students can’t apply for Adult Dependants’ Grant for an adult who already gets student finance. An unmarried partner can only be claimed as an adult dependant if the student is 25 or over.

How much Adult Dependants’ Grant is available?

The amount of Adult Dependants’ Grant available to a student depends on their household income, which is the income of their husband, wife, civil partner or partner (if they have one) and any dependants.

Eligible students can get up to £2,834 a year.
What is Parents’ Learning Allowance?

Parents’ Learning Allowance can help with course-related costs, such as books or travel, for students who have dependent children. It’s based on their household income and doesn’t usually have to be paid back.

Who qualifies for Parents’ Learning Allowance?

Full-time undergraduate and full-time postgraduate ITT students studying at universities and colleges in the UK can apply for Parents’ Learning Allowance if they have any dependent children.

If the student’s partner is also a full-time student, they can both apply for Parents’ Learning Allowance.

How much Parents’ Learning Allowance is available?

The amount of Parents’ Learning Allowance available to a student depends on their household income, which is the income of their husband, wife, civil partner or partner (if they have one) and any dependants.

Eligible students can get up to £1,617 a year.
How do students apply for Adult Dependents’ Grant and/or Parents’ Learning Allowance?

1. Fill in the main student finance application

To apply for Adult Dependents’ Grant and/or Parents’ Learning Allowance, the student should fill in the main application for student finance, including the section for Adult Dependents’ Grant and Parents’ Learning Allowance. The quickest way to do this is online at www.gov.uk/studentfinance

If the student is applying for Adult Dependents’ Grant for an adult that is not their husband, wife, civil partner or partner, they’ll be asked to give details of the other adult dependant’s income for the 2015-16 tax year. If the other adult dependant’s income has dropped by 15% or more, they can tell us about the change and we’ll take this into account when we assess their application.

We’ll also ask for additional evidence, for example their child’s birth certificate and evidence to show the child or adult is dependent on the student. The student must send all the evidence we ask for as soon as possible otherwise their application may be delayed. You can find out more about the evidence they’ll need to send in the ‘Dependants’ Grants – evidence’ factsheet.

Students must apply within nine months of the start of the academic year.

Students who started their course before 1 August 2013

Students who started their course before 1 August 2013 will also be asked to give details of any financial commitments they had before the start of their course. They must give an estimate of the annual totals for each commitment. If they give monthly payment amounts, we won’t be able to consider the actual amount they pay during the year and they may not get all of the Dependents’ Grants they’re entitled to at the beginning of the year. We’ll contact these students at the end of the academic year to ask for evidence of their household income and financial commitments. You can find more information about this on the ‘Dependants’ Grants – finalisation’ factsheet.
2. We’ll send the student a Student Finance Entitlement letter

We’ll assess the student’s application and send them a letter telling them how much student finance they can get, including any Adult Dependants’ Grant and Parents’ Learning Allowance.

3. We’ll pay the student

We’ll pay any Adult Dependants’ Grant and Parents’ Learning Allowance directly into the student’s bank account in three instalments, usually at the same time as any other student finance they get.

Does getting Adult Dependants’ Grant or Parents’ Learning Allowance affect benefits?

Adult Dependants’ Grant will be taken into account by HM Revenue & Customs, Jobcentre Plus and the local Housing Benefit office when any income-related benefits are worked out. Parents’ Learning Allowance won’t be taken into account.

For more information about getting benefits, students should visit www.gov.uk