

EDUCATION, LEISURE AND HOUSING

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Dear Parent/Carer

Education Maintenance Allowances (EMA)

EMAs are an allowance of £30 per week payable to eligible young people continuing in full-time education at an approved learning centre after reaching their statutory school leaving date. It can be paid for up to three consecutive years, but a fresh application must be made each year.

Your child may be eligible if they meet the following criteria set by the Scottish Government:

- Their date of birth is between 1 March 2003 and 30 September 2006 (August 2022 intake), or between 1 October 2006 and 28 February 2007 (January 2023 intake).
- They must be continuing in further education either at school, home education, Orkney College or an Activity Agreement and their course/subjects are not higher than National Certificate (NC) level.
- Your gross taxable household income from 6 April 2021 to 5 April 2022 was below **£24,421** if you have a single dependent child or below **£26,884** if you have more than one dependent child*.

* A dependent child is anyone under the age of 16 or someone aged between 16 and 25 who is in full-time further or higher education. Children who are formally looked after in local authority, foster or formal kinship care can be assessed as an independent student and do not need to provide income details for their parents/carers.

If you meet the above criteria, we encourage you to complete an application form. The application forms are now ready and will be updated on the website imminently. Please email education.grants@orkney.gov.uk if you would like one sent out.

A range of information about student funding and grants can be accessed from: <https://www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/G/grants-emas-and-bursaries.htm>

Deadlines

To receive payments from the start of the school term that your child becomes eligible you must submit your application by the dates below. Applications received after the deadline date will be paid from the week that they are received by the Education Grants team.

Eligible From:	Submission Deadline:
August 2022.	30 September 2022.
January 2023.	28 February 2023.

The final submission date for academic year 2022/23 is 31 March 2023.

School Leavers

If your child is leaving school and moving on to further education then they may still be eligible for an EMA, as long as they meet the criteria listed. If they are studying a college course at NC Level or below then they may also be eligible for a Further Education Bursary.

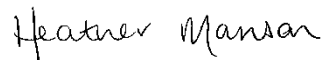
- **Orkney College Students:** You should apply to Orkney Islands Council for EMA and a Further Education Bursary.
- **Outwith Orkney Students:** You should apply to Orkney Islands Council for a Further Education Bursary but will need to apply to your college for EMA.

Please note: If you are studying a course at HNC level or above then you will not be eligible for EMA or a Further Education Bursary. You should contact the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) for information about funding. You can access their website at:

www.saas.gov.uk

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



Heather Manson
Senior Administrative Officer (Grants)