



ABERDEEN COLLEGE®



Childcare Funding

Academic Year 2011-2012

Introduction

Aberdeen College does not run a nursery or crèche, but has funds from which students may be able to gain some financial assistance towards the cost of their childcare whilst attending college.

This leaflet gives information on planning for your childcare and what financial assistance may be available from Aberdeen College.

Aberdeen College has a designated Student Funding Adviser as a member of Learner Services who is responsible for assisting students to determine whether they are eligible for funding for childcare, and in assisting if you are having problems finding a suitable childcare provider. The childcare adviser, **Irene Robertson**, can be contacted on **01224 612187** or email **i.robertson@abcol.ac.uk**



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Award



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Planning ahead

Students are advised to plan for the care of their children well before starting their course. The actual days and times of your attendance at College may not be known until just before you actually start your course but you are advised to make provisional plans, confirming the actual arrangements once your timetable is known.

Most students will only attend College for a given number of hours each week and therefore will not require childcare for a full week.

You will need to decide what is the most appropriate method of childcare for your child or children:

- Private Nursery
- Registered Childminder
- Before/After School Club.



Details of providers can be obtained from the Childcare Services in your area:

<http://childcarefinder.direct.gov.uk/childcarefinder>

When planning your childcare besides considering what is the best type of childcare for yourself and your child/ren you should also bear in mind the following:

- **Costs**
It is unlikely you will receive financial assistance for the full cost of your childcare. The maximum rate the college would contribute towards a:
 - Nursery – up to £35 for a full-time place per day per child
 - Childminder – up to £3 per hour per child
 - After school club up to £8 per session per child
 - Breakfast club up to £4 per session per child
 - College will only cover the days you are timetabled to attend College.
- **Location**
Which provider you choose is your choice, but remember you have to be able to drop your child at the childcare provider and then be in college in time for your classes.

Assistance available from Aberdeen College

Discretionary Childcare Funding

The College receives funding to assist FE and HE students with childcare costs. *Students should be aware that the college may not cover the full costs towards childcare costs. Any outstanding amount is the student's responsibility.*

The Discretionary Childcare Fund is a means tested scheme. Students with household income up to £45,000 may be eligible for assistance.

The College will contribute between 80-100% of registered childcare costs within the limits set by the College.



To be eligible for these funds students must meet certain criteria:

- Meet residence conditions
- Be enrolled as a full-time or part-time student
- Be in receipt of funding from appropriate funding body
- Be on a fundable course
- Must be past compulsory school leaving age
- Be able to demonstrate financial hardship and difficulty with meeting childcare costs
- Receiving Child Benefit and Child Tax Credits.

HE Students must also meet the following criteria:

- Taken Full Loan Entitlement
- Students not having Fee support paid for by SAAS will not be eligible for support from the Discretionary Childcare Fund
- Lone Parents must have claimed the Lone Parent Grant from SAAS.

Lone Parent Childcare Grant

Lone Parents are entitled to receive up to a maximum of £1,215 towards registered childcare costs after which they can receive additional help from Childcare Funds at the discretion of the College.

To be eligible for these funds students must meet the same criteria as the Discretionary Childcare Funding with the exception of the following:

- Students paying their own fees are still eligible to apply for the Lone Parent Childcare Grant.

How do I apply?

- Contact Irene Robertson, Student Funding Adviser, who can discuss your eligibility for assistance with childcare funding on **01224 612187** or email i.robertson@abcol.ac.uk
- If you are already a student at Aberdeen College, make an appointment at Learner Services Reception
- Overseas students should check their eligibility for these funds with the Student Funding Adviser.

What happens if I am awarded assistance with childcare costs?

- If childcare assistance is allocated, payments will be paid directly to the provider.



Conditions of award

- It is the student's responsibility to complete all relevant paperwork for childcare funding. Failure to do so may result in loss of childcare funding
- Funds are only released on evidence of good attendance by the student as detailed in the College policy.
- It is the student's responsibility to pay any outstanding amount owing to the provider.

How do I find a registered childcare provider?

If you require details of registered providers within your area contact your local Childcare Information Services.

Aberdeen City Family Information Service	Tel 01224 443344
Aberdeenshire Childcare Information Service	Tel 0800 298 3330
Angus Childcare Partnership	Tel 01307 473297 / 473303
Dundee Early Years & Childcare Partnership	Tel 01382 433900

Useful websites and addresses

Scottish Childcare

Providing free, impartial information on childcare and pre-school education services throughout Scotland.

www.scottishchildcare.gov.uk

Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland

For reports on registered providers, including all inspection reports.

www.scswis.com

Inland Revenue

For information on Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit, telephone the helpline on 0845 300 3900

www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk

College Contacts

For further information about Assisted Childcare at Aberdeen College please contact:

Irene Robertson
Student Funding Adviser
Tel [01224 612187](tel:01224612187)
E-mail i.robertson@abcol.ac.uk



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The details given in this publication are based on information available at the time of printing and Aberdeen College accepts no responsibility for any changes or amendments by other agencies. *May 2011*