

# A young person's guide to EDUCATION SUPPORT...



[www.newport.gov.uk](http://www.newport.gov.uk)

This guide will give you **advice** and **information** about what education support / finance options are available to you.



**NEWPORT**  
CITY COUNCIL  
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## **A YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE TO EDUCATION SUPPORT AND FINANCE...**

This guide will provide **ADVICE** and **SUPPORT** on how to access further and higher education including any financial support that is available to you.



# BENEFITS AND ENTITLEMENTS FOR EDUCATION...

Did you know that if you are aged 16 - 18 and want to go to sixth-form or college there is support available to you.

Let's start with grants. You may be able to get money to help you continue your education.

## **Education maintenance allowance (EMA)**

This is for 16 - 18 year olds living in Wales who want to continue their education after school leaving age. It is a weekly allowance of **£30**.

To get this money you must be aged 16-18 and live in a house with a low income. You must carry on attending college to keep receiving the money.

## **Welsh Government learning grant**

If you're aged 19 or over you can get some support towards the cost of studying. This could be up to **£1,500** for a full-time course or up to **£750** for a part-time course (studying more than 8 hours per week).

Please be aware that how much you get depends on your income.

To find out more about these two grants visit :

**[www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/fe](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/fe)**

Applications can also be downloaded from this website.

## **Princes Trust**

Young people aged 16-30 can apply for help towards the cost of course fees and equipment.

To apply for this you must be studying less than 14 hours per week or not in compulsory education or be unemployed or working less than 16 hours per week.



To find out more visit:

[www.princes-trust.org.uk//help-for-young-people/  
get-funding-train-learn](http://www.princes-trust.org.uk//help-for-young-people/get-funding-train-learn)

### **Support for Coleg Gwent students**

If you are attending Coleg Gwent there is support available to you. This includes financial support and personal advice and guidance.

### **Financial support - *Financial Contingency Fund***

Coleg Gwent has a fund available to students in need of extra support which includes:

- **help towards equipment costs**
- **help towards the cost of travel**
- **help with childcare**  
**(this can include free meals for those under 19 who are eligible)**

There are only limited funds in the pot. If you are in need of this support speak to customer services on **01495 333777**.

For more information visit:

[www.coleggwent.ac.uk/life-at-coleg-gwent/financial-support](http://www.coleggwent.ac.uk/life-at-coleg-gwent/financial-support)

### **Bus passes**

You could be entitled to discounted bus travel to and from college.

- **If you are aged 16-18 and live in Newport, Torfaen, Caerphilly or Blaenau Gwent you can apply to your local council.**
- **If you are aged 16-18 and live in Monmouthshire or aged over 19 you apply directly to the college at when you enrol.**

### **My travel pass**

This is discounted travel scheme for 16-21 year olds which is funded by the Welsh Government. Your Coleg Gwent bus pass will only be valid once you receive your 'mytravelpass'.

You can apply by phone, post or online. For more information visit:

[www.mytravelpass.gov.wales](http://www.mytravelpass.gov.wales)

## Support with your wellbeing

Coleg Gwent will also support you with your wellbeing and what to expect when you attend.

*Before you get to college:*

- **advice and guidance on money you are able to claim to support your studies**
- **informal visits to campus**
- **taster sessions and tours of the campus**
- **if appropriate they will attend your support meetings in school**

*When you are at college:*

- **support with your enrolment**
- **personal tutor, someone you can trust and talk to**
- **Inspire 2 Achieve can help with your studies as well as any personal, social and emotional issues**
- **counselling service**
- **youth worker**
- **personal coaches can help with your studies**
- **chaplaincy and inclusion service**
- **support for additional learning needs**
- **libraries equipped with books, journals, eBooks and DVDs, and you can use PCs or connect your own device to our free Wi-Fi.**

For more information about learner support visit:

[www.coleggwent.ac.uk/life-at-coleg-gwent](http://www.coleggwent.ac.uk/life-at-coleg-gwent)

## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH WALES (USW)...

The University of South Wales can support you if you want to go to university. They have a nominated person who will be able to give you advice and guidance.

This person is called the care leaver coordinator and they coordinate the support that is available at the university.



[www.newport.gov.uk](http://www.newport.gov.uk)

If you have any questions please email [careleavers@southwales.ac.uk](mailto:careleavers@southwales.ac.uk)

### **Pre-entry support**

If you have said you are a care leaver in your application or you have contacted the nominated person directly the university can support you with the following:

- **your application to student finance**
- **providing information regarding accommodation**
- **any questions you may have regarding starting at university**

### **Money advice and guidance**

Understanding what financial support is available to you can be difficult. The university's student money advice team can support you with the following:

- **making sure you are getting the financial support available to you from Student Finance**
- **Money management and budgeting**
- **Accessing the Care Leaver Bursary from the university (up to £1,000) – this is confirmed yearly and terms and conditions apply.**



## Accommodation advice

The university provides access to 365-day accommodation on its Treforest Campus Halls (payment and terms must be met by the student).

This can help reduce stress on finding somewhere to live over the summer. They also can advise you on private accommodation offered on other campus and locations.

## Health and wellbeing

The university has the following services to support your health and wellbeing while studying.

*They offer:*

- **Free health advice and support to all students.**
- **Mental health service helps students who are experiencing mental or emotional stress.**

The university counselling service is impartial, confidential, non-judgemental and available to all enrolled students.

## Support for disabled students

The disability service provides information, advice and guidance and co-ordinates support for USW students who have disabilities, including physical, sensory, mental health or unseen disabilities, specific learning difficulties (e.g. dyslexia) and autism.

## USEFUL WEBSITES...

**[www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk](http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk)**

An independent website with information about different universities. They also have a helpful guide for care leavers.

**[www.careerpilot.org.uk](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk)**

Information and resources for anyone thinking about their education and career options. They have a page specifically for students in or leaving care.



### [www.propel.org.uk](http://www.propel.org.uk)

Information and inspiration on higher education for care leavers. You can search all higher education providers in the UK to find the contact person for care leavers.

### [www.UCAS.com](http://www.UCAS.com)

Everything you need to know about applying for a higher education course, plus financial and other information for care leavers:

[ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-strated/individual-needs/ucas-undergraduate-support-care-leavers](http://ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-strated/individual-needs/ucas-undergraduate-support-care-leavers)

### **Newport City Council pathway service**

The staff in the council's pathway team includes social workers, social work assistants and personal advisors who offer a service to those over 18 years of age.

This can include support with finances when you are still in education. The pathway service will provide a fortnightly allowance of **£176.20** to support with expenses over the year.

Accommodation during the holiday period will be provided up to a maximum of the housing allowance for the duration of the course. This doesn't include the time leading up to the start of first term and the time following the last term.

You will be responsible for paying your rent directly along with all other student costs.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION...**

Students must apply to Student Finance Wales to cover the cost of tuition fees and also to apply for the maintenance grant.

To find out more visit: [www.studentfinancewales.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk)



## Higher education bursary

Any care leaver who starts an undergraduate course by their 25th birthday will be entitled to the higher education bursary.

The bursary is **£2,000** which is to cover the whole course. The method of payment is discretionary and at present the payment is split over the length of the degree at the end of each term.

Some universities also provide bursaries for students who are care leavers. Support will be provided by the pathway service to access these funds as well as access to charitable grants which may be available.



## **Disabled students allowance**

If a young person has a disability, including a chronic health condition, a specific learning difficulty or a mental health condition, they should be a **Category I** for the disabled students allowance (**DSA**).

This helps with costs incurred in attending your course as a direct result of your disability. For example, it may pay for specialist equipment or a non-medical helper such as a note-taker.

The DSA is available to full-time and part-time students with disabilities. Part-time students must be studying at least 50% of a full-time course.

It is available to both undergraduates and postgraduates. The amount you receive does **NOT** depend on your income or that of the household. This financial assistance does not have to be repaid.

Information on how to apply is available at [www.studentfinancewales.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk)

*Other assistance available from Student Finance Wales includes:*

- **Childcare grant**
- **Parent's learning allowance**
- **Adult dependants grant**

## **Discretionary payments**

Requests for extra funding can be made via the St David's Day Fund, your personal advisor can complete the application on your behalf. The pathway team will be able to give you more information on this.