

## Support for student carers

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### 1 INTRODUCTION

A student carer is a student, of any age, who gives physical or emotional support, on a regular basis, to someone who could not manage without such support. This could be for a relative, partner or friend who has a long-term physical or mental illness, disability or is too frail to look after themselves.

Support can include, but we don't limit it to, personal care, practical support, help with household tasks and emotional support. You do not have to receive carer's allowance from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for us to treat you as a carer.

If the person you care for is also financially dependent on you, you may be eligible to apply to us for the Dependants' Grant that you do not have to pay back. We pay this grant on top of the normal-support package of fees, loan and bursary.

### 2 THE DEPENDANTS' GRANT

This is an income-assessed grant that we may pay if you have a husband, wife, partner, civil partner or other adult who you act as carer for.

The maximum grant we can pay is **£2,640** a year. To work out the amount of grant we can pay, we need an estimate of the gross income of the person you care for, for the period 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018. We do not take into account any earned income you have while you study.

We pay the Dependants' Grant provisionally. This means, we will assess your entitlement to the Dependants' Grant again when we receive confirmation, after 31 July 2018, of the actual income your dependant received. If this assessment shows your entitlement to the Dependants' Grant is less than what we previously provisionally paid you, we will ask you to pay back the amount you received that is more than the amount you are now due.

You cannot claim this grant for children or another student who is in full-time further or higher education who receives support while they study from UK or other EU public funds. However, you could be entitled to the [Lone Parents' Grant](#) if you are bringing up a child on your own or if you are single and caring for a sibling.

## Evidence we need to assess your entitlement to the Dependants' Grant

You must give us one of the following:

- A copy of your registration as a carer with a Local Authority, GP surgery or local carers group; or
- If the person you care for receives Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment or Attendance Allowance, a copy of their benefit entitlement letter from the DWP.

## 3 LONE PARENTS' GRANT

This is an income-assessed grant that we pay to students who are single, who are bringing up a child on their own or who are legally responsible for younger siblings\*.

The maximum grant we can pay is **£1,305** a year. To work out the amount of grant we can pay, we need an estimate of the gross income you expect to receive, for the period 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018. We do not take into account any earned income you have while you study. However, we do take into account any income you have from property, pensions and social security benefits. You can find a full list of the income we take into account [here](#).

\* You cannot claim this grant if your child or sibling is:

- in further or higher education and they receive a bursary while they study; or
- employed; or
- studying more than 12 hours a week on a non-advanced course of education

## Evidence we need to assess your entitlement to the Lone Parents' Grant

A copy of your child's, sibling's full birth certificate and one of the following:

- A copy of your registration as a carer with a Local Authority, GP surgery or local carers group; or
- Your council tax notice that shows you receive a discount because you are the only adult in the household; or
- If you receive tax credits, a clear photocopy of your tax credit award for 2017-2018; or
- A copy of a letter from the DWP which shows you claim benefits as a single person.

## 4 LONE PARENTS' CHILDCARE GRANT

Students who are eligible for the Lone Parents' Grant may also be eligible for the Lone Parents' Childcare Grant (LPCG). The LPCG is a grant available to students bringing up a child or sibling on their own to help towards the cost of registered or formal childcare costs.

The maximum grant is **£1,215** each year. How much you receive will depend on your childcare costs. Students do not apply to us for the LPCG; they must contact their college or university who pay this from their [Childcare Fund](#).

Please note that this fund is limited so not all eligible students with childcare costs will receive help. You can find more information, including the eligibility criteria for the LPCG [here](#).

## 5 HOW TO APPLY FOR THE DEPENDANTS' AND LONE PARENTS' GRANT

We refer to these grants as 'living-costs grants'. You can apply online at [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk) in the same way you apply for support with your fees and other living costs. There is help text that explains how to fill in the application form.

To claim for one or both of these grants, you must tick the **Living Cost Grants** box on the first page of the application form as shown below.

The screenshot shows the SAAS Undergraduate Online Application form. The header includes the SAAS logo and the text 'Undergraduate Online Application'. Below the header is a purple bar with the text 'What Are You Claiming?'. The main content area is white and contains several sections with checkboxes:

- Are you a care leaver?**
- Please tick the boxes to tell us what support you want for session 2015-2016.**
- Tuition fees**   
(Payment of fees does not happen automatically every year. You must check this box if you want to apply to have your fees paid)
- Are you studying inside or outside Scotland?**  Inside  Outside  
(If you are studying abroad, please indicate whether your home college or university is inside or outside Scotland.)
- Loan for Living Costs**
- Loan applied for and Household income is £34,000 or above**   
(Up to £4,750 is available to all students. You do not need to give us your household income)
- Loan applied for and Household income is below £34,000.**   
(You must supply us with your household income unless you are an independent single student. For more information click the 'Need Help')
- Young Students' Bursary or Independent Students' Bursary**
- Living Cost Grants**   
If you are a student carer you may be entitled to some additional funding. (Dependants' Grant for Adult Dependents, Lone Parents' Grant, Vacation Grant for Care Leavers.)
- Disabled Students' Allowance**   
(Remember to download the DSA application form from our website.)

At the bottom, there is a link: [Contact Us](#). The 'Living Cost Grants' checkbox and its associated text are highlighted with a red rectangular box.

## Applying for the Dependants' grant

If you are applying for this grant as a carer of an adult, you should fill in the **'Dependants' Grant for Adult Dependants'** page of the application, as shown below. You will need to give us an estimate of the gross income of the person you care for, for the period 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018.

The screenshot shows the SAAS Undergraduate Online Application interface. The page title is 'Living Cost Grants' and the sub-section is 'Dependants' Grant for Adult Dependants'. A note states: 'Please note that fields marked with an asterisk (\*) must be completed to successfully submit an application.' The instruction reads: 'You should only complete this section with details of your husband, wife, partner, civil partner or any other adult dependant you act as a carer for.' The form includes input fields for 'First Name(s)', 'Surname', and 'Date of Birth' (with a note to use format dd/mm/yyyy). Below these is a 'Total Income' field with the instruction: 'Please enter the total income for your husband, wife, partner or civil partner. Please enter in pounds, leaving out the £ sign. The period should cover 1 August 2015 - 31 July 2016.' Navigation buttons for 'Previous', 'Next', and 'Exit' are visible at the bottom.

We will write to you after 31 July 2018 to ask you to confirm their actual income. This will allow us to work out if we previously paid you the correct amount of grant.

## Applying for the Lone Parents' Grant

If you are single and bringing up a child on your own or are legally responsible for younger siblings, you should fill in the **'Other Supplementary Grants'** page of the application, as shown below.

The screenshot shows the SAAS Undergraduate Online Application interface for 'Other Supplementary Grants'. A note states: 'Please note that fields marked with an asterisk (\*) must be completed to successfully submit an application.' The instruction reads: 'If you are a lone parent and have a child who is dependent on you (including children you act as a carer for), you may be entitled to the Lone Parents' Grant.' Below this, it says: 'If you wish to claim this grant please enter details of your child.' The form includes input fields for 'First name(s)', 'Surname', and 'Date of birth' (with a note to use format dd/mm/yyyy). There is also a dropdown menu for 'Relationship to you' with the text 'Please select' and a downward arrow.

You will need to send us the relevant [evidence](#) that shows you have a legal responsibility for your child or sibling. You should do this immediately after you fill in the application form using our document upload facility on our website.

## 6 HELP

Make sure you claim for everything that you are eligible for. We can only pay you for the support you ask for. The type of support available is tuition fees, student loan, bursary and living-costs grants. You can visit our website at [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk) to get more information about the support available to eligible students.

If you need help to fill in your application form, please contact our dedicated online application helpline on **0300 555 0505**.