SAAS

Student Awards Agency Scotland

Funding your future

Stakeholder Toolkit 2025 to 2026

Here to help students find the right information, support and funding

✓ Informing Choices

✓ Funding Futures

✓ Supporting Success

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Contents

Information ✕

To navigate directly to pages, click on the contents list.
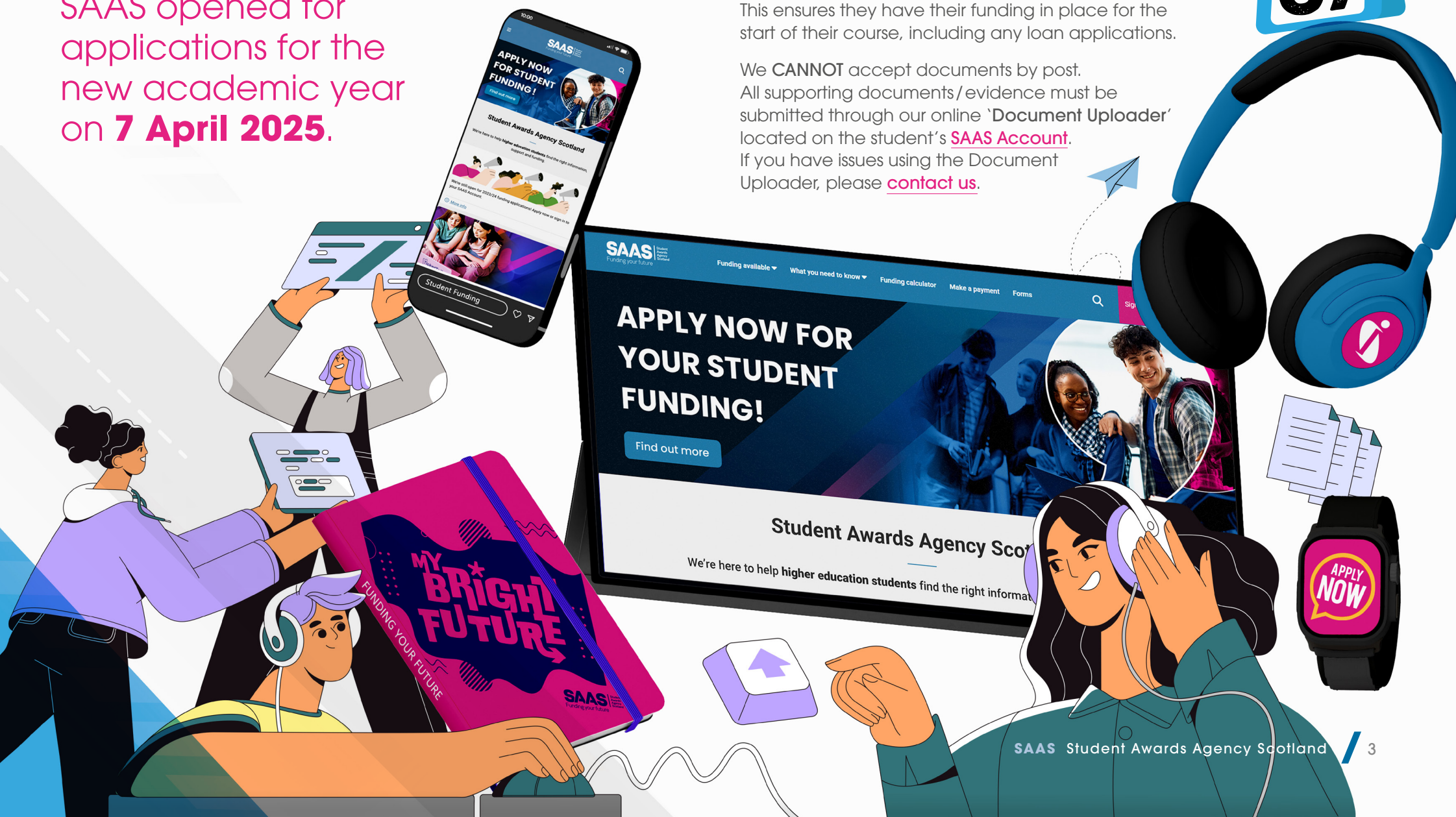
Overview of SAAS

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SAAS opened for applications for the new academic year on **7 April 2025**.

From this date, we are asking students to submit their 2025 to 2026 applications for funding.

Students must submit a correctly completed application, including supporting evidence, as early as possible. This ensures they have their funding in place for the start of their course, including any loan applications.

We **CANNOT** accept documents by post. All supporting documents/evidence must be submitted through our online 'Document Uploader' located on the student's **SAAS Account**. If you have issues using the Document Uploader, please **contact us**.

We need your help

Please encourage all students to apply **as early as possible** to ensure their funding is in place for the start of their course.

Actions students must take:

- All students must apply to SAAS as early as possible and before each year of their studies, even if they are only applying for tuition fee payment. SAAS pay tuition fees directly to the student's college or university

- Continuing students must keep hold of their SAAS Reference Number

- Applications must be completed accurately and submitted with all required supporting evidence through our Document Uploader

- Please remind students to apply using the exact name they used to apply to UCAS/university or college – for example Jon, John, Jonathan or Pam, Pamela

- All students must allow sufficient time for us to request any missing documents, which is why it's best to apply as early as possible

Key dates students need to be aware of:

- Students must apply and submit their evidence before **30 June 2025** to ensure they receive their funding on time

- We opened for full-time and part-time applications on **7 April 2025**

- If students apply late after **30 June**, we cannot guarantee they will receive their funding in time for the start of their course

- Applications can be submitted up until **31 March 2026**

SAAS Account

Students can access their **SAAS Account** to apply for funding or get updates on an existing application.

➡ MY PORTAL LOGIN

Students should:

- Apply each year on the SAAS Account, before their course starts

- Apply for all of their funding upfront. If they apply for additional funding after submitting their initial application, it may be late

- Upload supporting evidence using the Document Uploader

- Check their SAAS Account for their award notice

- Keep an eye out for emails from SAAS

- Keep their passwords safe

APPLY NOW!

Other helpful hints:

- Students do not need to wait for exam results or an unconditional offer. They can apply with their first choice and change course in their SAAS Account

- Students can follow the SAAS, **Facebook**, **Instagram** or **TikTok** accounts for additional information

- Students can view our help videos on ▶ YouTube

- When processing a student loan, SAAS assess the application, issue the award notice and pass the student's record to the Student Loans Company (SLC), who make the payments

- **For student loan questions, including when payments are made or if payments are missing, contact SLC on 0300 100 0609.** For more information, visit the **payments guide**

- Loan payments from the SLC will not be made until the student's college or university has confirmed their attendance

Student Information Scotland

If students are wondering how they will manage their finances if they choose to go to college or uni…

They just need to check out the **Budget and Funding calculators** on the **Student Information Scotland** website.

This will help them understand how much they will potentially need to budget and how much funding they may be eligible for.

www.studentinformation.gov.scot

YOUR OFFICIAL GUIDE TO STUDENT FINANCE IN SCOTLAND

Start your journey

Student Information Scotland

Designed for students, parents and carers - this new website by the Scottish Government places all the further and higher education funding information available into one place, helping new and current students make informed choices.

Budget and funding calculators

The budget and funding calculator breaks down what money you've got coming in, going out and what funding you could receive.

Discretionary Funding

If you face financial difficulty while studying, you may be eligible for Discretionary Funds from your university or college.

Great info on budgeting!

Lots of useful hints & tips!!

Keep in Touch with SAAS

Visit our **Higher Education Institution (HEI) online platforms** to post questions and get all the latest information and guidance.

Drive

The **SAAS HEI Shared Area** is where you can access information on our policies and range of services available. It's regularly updated with important information and guidance, including the **Policy Changes for 2025 to 2026** which are available now.

Please do not share the link to the HEI google drive with students.

trickle™

We also have a **SAAS HEI Trickle platform** that allows HEIs to network, voice concerns, celebrate successes and post questions.

Users can post as themselves or opt to post anonymously. If you would like an invitation to start using Trickle, contact: **SAASComms@gov.scot**

Funding Guide Toolkits 2025 to 2026

You can view PDF versions of our Funding Guide leaflets on the links below:

→ Key Facts

→ Parent/Carer

→ Postgraduates

→ Disabled Students' Allowance

→ Care Experienced

→ Estranged

→ Paramedic, Nursing & Midwifery

→ Living Cost Grants

→ Graduate Apprenticeships

Our products are also available in community languages and alternative formats, on request.

SAAS Funding – Estranged Students

The Student Awards Agency Scotland is here to help you to find the right information, support and funding

✓ Informing Choices
✓ Funding Futures
✓ Supporting Success

We are Live!

Make sure your students are ready to apply for their **2025 to 2026 funding**.

Share our messaging on social media from **7 April** to signpost students to all the guidance and support they need for funding, bursaries and loans.

Social Media Messaging

Don't snooze your SAAS!

@saastweet are open for applications for the 2025 to 2026 session. Sort your funding application early and enjoy a stress-free start to student life.

Apply now at www.saas.gov.uk
#StartWithSAAS

3 quick wins to sorting out your funding early!

- Peace of mind for starting your course
- If SAAS need further info, they can ask for this in plenty of time
- More time to prepare and focus on your studies

Apply today at www.saas.gov.uk
#StartWithSAAS

Tick It!

Scottish students can get free tuition fees for their higher education course. However, you must apply for them through SAAS. Remember to tick the box on your SAAS application!

Apply today at www.saas.gov.uk
#StartWithSAAS

Remember - your SAAS funding application is for 1 academic year only.

You need to apply for funding each academic year. Sign into your SAAS Account now to get started: www.saas.gov.uk
#StartWithSAAS

Click on any of the social media images to download our campaign graphics.

APPLYING EARLY MEANS...
my money is in my account when my course starts!

GOING TO COLLEGE OR UNI? HNC HND
I applied for my tuition fees, loan and bursary at www.saas.gov.uk

SAAS Funding your future

I'M APPLYING NOW... for my funding, to get a stress-free start!

SAAS Funding your future

Our social media handles:

f @saasfb

♪ @studentawardsagencyscot

◎ @studentawardsagencyscotland

Contacting SAAS

There are a variety of ways that students can contact us with their enquiries. These can be found on our **contact us** page and include our Webchat facility.

We also offer quick answers to our most frequently asked questions in our Hints and Tips.

Step-by-step guide:

You can also try our new step by step funding guide! It will help students through each step of the application process, before, during and after their journey with SAAS.

Webchat

Students can use our Webchat function on the Contact Us page of our website or submit an enquiry through their SAAS account.

We encourage students to read our Hints and Tips before contacting us.

⏱ **Opening hours** 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday.

Contact us by phone

📞 0300 555 0505

⏱ **Opening hours** 9am to 4pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Phone

SAAS Customer Outreach Programme

Our **Funding Awareness Team** delivers a programme of student and stakeholder outreach activities.

Activities Include:

- Participating in Higher Education Institution (HEI) events across Scotland

- Engaging with secondary schools, delivering student, parent, carer and guardian information talks online

- Working closely with external widening access groups such as, LEAPS, LIFT OFF, Focus West and Aspire North

- Delivering Funding Awareness Webinars

- Delivering online application workshops

Please get in touch if you are planning an event which you would like the Funding Awareness Team to attend using the **booking link** on the SAAS website. You can also contact us at SAASEvents@gov.scot

We also deliver Student Funding Webinars which can be booked through Ticket Tailor

Ticket Tailor

Further information is available on the Events page of the SAAS website.

SAAS Counter Fraud Team

The SAAS **Counter Fraud Team** would like to engage with all stakeholders regarding any suspicions of fraud.

Please contact them in confidence:

Counter Fraud Hotline:
0300 300 3138

Counter Fraud Email:
SAASCFT@gov.scot

Deter / As well as reacting to suspicions of fraud, we are also keen to hear from stakeholders to raise awareness and maximise the deterrent effect.

Prevent / We want to improve systems and the controls that support our operations. We know these can disable fraud and are eager to have input from stakeholders to embed an anti-fraud culture.

Detect / With stakeholders' support, we can help identify trends and patterns and profile fraudsters, which helps us in the early detection of fraud.

Helpful resources for students

The Student Information Scotland **Health and Wellbeing** page provides a range of resources from trusted local and national sources.

Gender Based Violence (GBV support)

Universities and colleges should be places where students can live, study and research, free of sexual harassment and gender based violence.

https://endgbv.uk/

EmilyTest
Tackling Gender Based Violence in Education

Working to improve gender based violence prevention, intervention and support in FE and HE education.

www.emilytest.org

SAMARITANS Samaritans

You can get in touch about anything that's troubling you, no matter how large or small the issue feels. Talk things over in complete confidence with an experienced listener or send an email.

www.samaritans.org
Phone: 116 123 or
email jo@samaritans.org

Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH)

Works to support people who experience mental health problems, homelessness, addictions and other forms of social exclusion.

www.samh.org.uk
Phone: 0141 530 1000

Penumbra Mental Health

Works to provide a wide range of mental health services for adults and young people.

www.penumbra.org.uk

LLTTF® www.llttf.com living life to the full

Based in Scotland, Living life to the full is an award-winning website providing easy access to cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) based resources for low mood and stress.

www.llttf.com

Breathing Space

A confidential helpline for people to call when they are feeling low, stressed or anxious.

www.breathingspace.scot
Phone 0800 83 85 87

SAAS

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www.saas.gov.uk

SAAS Communications

Head of Communications:
→ Julie Sinclair

Communications & Marketing Manager:
→ Rachael Veal

SAASComms@gov.scot

If you have any questions on the use and application of the SAAS brand please contact our Comms team above for advice.

SAAS Funding Awareness Outreach Team
SAASEvents@gov.scot

SAAS Policy Team
SAAS_Policy@gov.scot

f Facebook   **◉** Instagram

▶ YouTube   **♪** TikTok