# Financial Support for Students

## Home NI/GB Undergraduates

Undergraduate students eligible for student finance through [Student Finance NI](https://www.studentfinanceni.co.uk/types-of-finance/undergraduate/full-time/tuition-fee-and-living-cost-students/extra-help/childcare-grant/what-is-it/), [Student Finance England](https://www.gov.uk/childcare-grant), or [Student Finance Wales](https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/undergraduate-finance/full-time/tuition-fee-and-living-cost-students/what-s-available/childcare-grant/) may apply to their respective provider for a means-tested Childcare Grant.

You cannot apply for the Childcare Grant if you:

* Claim the childcare element of Universal Credit or Working Tax Credit
* Receive tax-free childcare from HM Revenue and Customs
* Pay a relative to care for your child only
* Receive childcare funding through the Department of Health Nursing Bursary

University Student Support Fund

This fund, provided by the Department for the Economy, considers applications from Home NI/GB students who:

* Have applied for all available student funding and relevant social security benefits they may be eligible for
* Are experiencing financial difficulties

This is a discretionary fund, and each application is assessed based on individual circumstances.

Further information on applying to the Fund can be found [here](https://www.qub.ac.uk/Study/Feesandfinance/student-financial-support/)

## Home Postgraduates

Currently, Childcare Grants are not available at postgraduate level, except for students undertaking a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), who may be eligible for undergraduate-level student finance.

University Student Support Fund

Home NI/GB postgraduate students may apply for discretionary support with childcare and other costs (except tuition fees) if:

* They have accessed all available funding and relevant social security benefits they may be eligible for
* Their application demonstrates financial hardship

## International / ROI Students

Students on a Student Visa are subject to a No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) condition. This means they cannot:

* Apply for statutory student finance (including the Childcare Grant)
* Receive childcare financial support from the state
* Receive awards from the University Student Support Fund

University Financial Assistance Fund

This discretionary fund may offer limited financial assistance to International and ROI students facing financial difficulty. However:

* The fund is extremely limited in both number and size of awards
* Applicants must demonstrate exceptional and unexpected circumstances that occurred after the start of the current academic year
* Supporting documentation of the exceptional circumstances is required

Further information on applying to the Fund can be found [here](https://www.qub.ac.uk/Study/Feesandfinance/student-financial-support/#university-financial-assistance-fund-978339-2)

## Other Financial Support

The following websites offer search tools for external charitable support, benevolent funds, educational scholarships, and private student loans:

* [The Scholarship Hub](https://www.thescholarshiphub.org.uk/)
* [Turn2us Grants Search](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5C3042911%5CDownloads%5C%E2%80%A2%09Turn2us%20Grants%20Search)
* [International Scholarships](https://www.internationalscholarships.com/?tab=random)
* [International Education Financial Aid (IEFA)](https://www.iefa.org/)
* [Scholarship Portal](https://www.scholarshipportal.com/)

## Need Advice?

[SU Advice,](https://qubsu.org/AdviceSU/) located at Level 3 of the Students’ Union, can provide guidance on:

* Applying for statutory student finance
* Eligibility to apply for social security benefits
* Understanding discretionary support options

Drop-in advice sessions are held every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 11.30am and 2pm or email su.advice@qub.ac.uk

Please note: Advisers cannot direct students to financial support sources beyond those listed above.