

CHILDCARE SUPPORT

There are two childcare support schemes available through Lincoln College. They are the national Care to Learn scheme and the Lincoln College 20+ Childcare Learner Support Fund scheme.

Care to Learn scheme*

The national Care to Learn scheme helps young parents aged under 20 at the start of their course pay for childcare for their child while they study. This scheme is not means-tested. Applications for Care to Learn can be made on-line through the Student Bursary Support Service.

Care to Learn can help with the cost of:

- childcare fees up to £180.00 per child per week, including deposit and registration fees
- a childcare taster session for up to 5 days
- keeping your childcare place over the summer holidays
- travel support to take your child to their childcare provider.

Eligibility:

You can get Care to Learn if all the following apply:

- you're the main carer for your child and in receipt of Child Benefit for your children.
- you live in England
- you are attending a course funded by the Education Skills Funding Agency
- your childcare provider qualifies and is registered with Ofsted.

Your childcare provider can be a:

- childminder
- preschool playgroup
- day nursery
- out of school club

The online application process:

- complete all sections of your application as requested of you by the Student Bursary Support Service, and
- ask your childcare provider to complete any section(s) of your application as requested by the Student Bursary Support Service, and

ask the Financial Support Team, Student Services, Lincoln College to complete any section(s) of your application as requested by the Student Bursary Support Service. You must give the Financial Support Team (Student Services) either a copy of your child's birth certificate, or a letter confirming receipt of Child Benefit for that child

Once your application is complete:

- you'll get a letter and payment plan telling you what financial help you can get
- your childcare provider will also get the payment plan to let them know when they'll be paid.

20+ Childcare Learner Support Fund*

The Lincoln College 20+ Childcare Learner Support Fund can contribute up to 100% of your total childcare costs for the days or hours you have a timetabled lesson at college. After deductions (e.g. government funding for 2- and 3-year-olds) the maximum award per academic year is £8,600.00 (£200 per week) regardless of the number of children claimed for and/or childcare providers used. Childcare provision used must be registered with Ofsted.

If you are in receipt or become eligible for Government Funded Hours, these hours must be used in the first instance. The 20+ Childcare Fund will only support additional hours beyond the Government funded hours based on your timetabled provision.

To receive support, you must be aged 20 or over on the first day of your course, enrolled on an ESFA funded course and be in receipt of one of the benefits below:

- Income Support
- Universal Credit - only where assessed annual net earnings when added to your Universal Credit monthly payments do not exceed £40,000pa.
- Working Tax Credit/Child Tax Credit, but only where Total Income added to your Tax Credit award for the period shown on your Final or Amended Tax Credit Award Notice for 2024/2025 is less than £40,000pa.

Applications for support from this Fund can be made through the secure, quick and easy PayMyStudent on-line application portal.