



A guide to Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit

Students



Am I a student?

You are a student if you are taking a course of study at an educational establishment (this could be a school, college, university or any other establishment such as a training hospital).

Do I have to pay council tax?

Can I claim Council Tax Benefit?

If you are a full-time student you do not have to pay council tax so don't need to claim Council Tax Benefit.

If you are a part-time student you do have to pay council tax, and can claim Council Tax Benefit.

Can I get Housing Benefit?

Most full-time students are not entitled to Housing Benefit. However, if you are in one of the groups listed right, or a part-time student, you may be entitled to it.

To find out whether your course is classed as full or part-time, please contact your educational establishment.



Eligible student groups

If you are a full-time student you may be eligible for Housing Benefit if you:

- are over 60, or your partner is over 60
- are entitled to Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance (income based) or Employment and Support Allowance (income related)
- are in a couple or are a single parent and are responsible for a dependent child
- are single, and responsible for a foster child who has been placed with you by the local authority or a voluntary organisation
- are disabled (this includes students who are registered blind, receive Disability Living Allowance or long-term Incapacity Benefit, or qualify for a disability premium)
- are treated as having limited capability for work as decided by the Department of Work and Pensions
- receive a UK grant which includes an allowance for deafness
- have to have a break in your study because of illness or caring responsibilities, cannot rejoin your course until a later date, and cannot get a student loan or grant until you rejoin your course
- are under 21 and are still only in further education, not higher education (you must have started your course before your 19th birthday).

Definition of further and higher education

Further education means any course below BTEC Higher National Diploma level, which includes GCSEs, A levels, BTEC Higher National Certificate and National Diplomas.

Higher education means any course of BTEC Higher National Diploma level and above. This includes first degrees, postgraduate studies, PGCE (teacher-training courses), nursing degrees and diplomas.

Students from abroad

Students from European Union countries are usually treated in the same way as students from the UK, and so must be in one of the eligible student groups listed left to qualify.

If you are a student from outside the European Union we will need information about your immigration status before we can deal with your Housing Benefit claim.

Rules for couples

If you are a couple but only one of you is a full-time student, the non student must make the claim for Housing Benefit, unless the student is in one of the eligible student groups (in which case both of you can claim).

Maintaining two homes

Some student couples will need two homes, one near where they study and a permanent home elsewhere. We will only pay Housing Benefit on both homes if this is unavoidable and reasonable.

In deciding whether we can pay on both homes we will look at things like:

- whether you could have attended an equivalent course within travelling distance of your permanent home
- why your household was unable to move to be closer to the university or educational establishment
- whether it would be reasonable for you to commute to the university.

Student income (including student nurses)

When you are a student, the money you are entitled to from your student loan, grant or bursary is counted as your income. We will assume that you have received the full loan amount you are entitled to, whether you claim it or not.

When working out your income for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit purposes, we will ignore some of your loan or grant. This includes the parts that cover:

- tuition and examination fees
- a set amount for books and travel
- any disability allowance included in your grant
- any amount specifically for childcare
- any special support grant
- any grant to maintain two homes.

If you are away during the summer holidays

We will not pay you Housing Benefit on your term-time accommodation if you are away during the summer holidays.

Students and council tax

If all the adults living in a property are full-time students they will not have to pay council tax for the property. However, they will all need to send us a valid student certificate.

If any of the adults in the property are not students those adults will be jointly responsible for paying the council tax on the property. The students in the property will be ignored for council tax purposes and will not have to pay council tax.

If there is only one non-student in the property they may be able to receive a 25 % discount on their council tax bill.

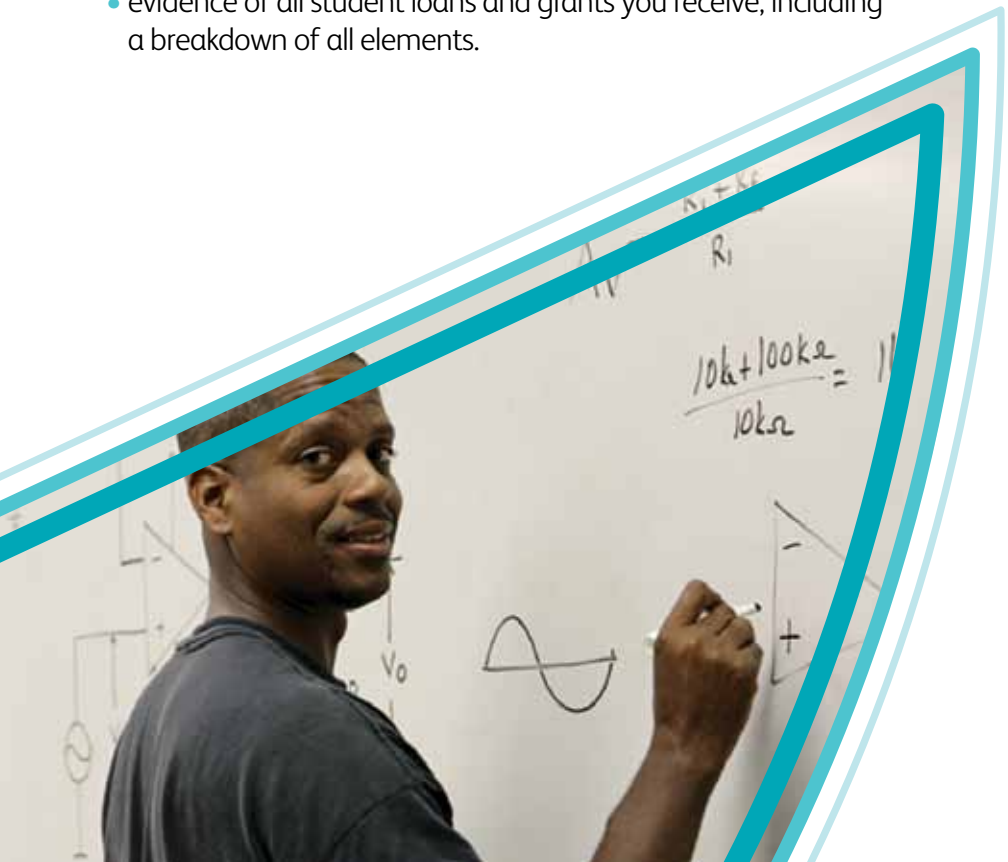
Non-dependant students

If you are a member of a family who are already receiving Housing Benefit, no non-dependant deductions will be taken from their Housing Benefit while you are a full-time student.

Evidence needed for students

If you are a student we will need to see the following extra evidence when you apply for benefits:

- a valid student certificate or letter from your educational establishment confirming the course title, the term dates, and your full or part-time status
- evidence of all student loans and grants you receive, including a breakdown of all elements.





More information

If you would like any more information you can contact us in the following ways:

Revenues and Benefits Service

Hackney Service Centre

1 Hillman Street,

London E8 1DY

Phone: 020 8356 3399

Textphone: 020 8356 3725

Fax: 020 8356 3655

Email: Benefits@hackney.gov.uk

Website: www.hackney.gov.uk

Counter enquiries Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

Children's Centre at Tyssen

Tyssen Primary School

Oldhill Street

London

N16 6AQ

Opening times: Wednesdays from 9.30am to 4pm

Stamford Hill Library

Portland Avenue

London

N16 6SB

Opening Times: Mondays and Thursdays from 11am to 4.30pm

If you would like to find out what this document says please tick the appropriate box, put your name, address and phone number at the bottom of this page and return it to the address below.

Bengali

এই দলিলে কি লেখা আছে সে সম্পর্কে যদি আপনি জানতে চান তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে উপযুক্ত বাক্সে টিক দিন, এই পাতার নীচে আপনার নাম, ঠিকানা ও ফোন নম্বর লিখুন এবং এটি নীচের ঠিকানায় ফেরত পাঠান।

Somali

Haddii aad jeclaan lahayd in aad ogaato waxa dokumeentigani sheegayo fadlan calaamadi godka ku haboon, ku qor magacaaga, cinwaanka iyo telefoon lambarkaaga boggan dhankiisa hoose ka dibna ku celi cinwaanka hoose.

French

Si vous désirez connaître le contenu de ce document, veuillez cocher la case appropriée et indiquer votre nom, adresse et numéro de téléphone au bas de cette page et la renvoyer à l'adresse indiquée ci-dessous.

Spanish

Si desea saber de lo que trata este documento, marque la casilla correspondiente, escriba su nombre, dirección y número de teléfono al final de esta página y envíela a la siguiente dirección.

Kurdish

Ger hun dixwazin bizanibin ku ev dokument çî dibêje, ji kerema xwe qutîka minasib îşaret bikin, nav, navnîşan û hejmara telefona xwe li jêrê rûpel binivîsin û wê ji navnîşana jêrîn re bişînin.

Turkish

Bu dökümanda ne anlatıldığını öğrenmek istiyorsanız, lütfen uygun kutuyu işaretleyerek, adınızı, adresinizi ve telefon numaranızı bu sayfanın alt kısmına yazıp, aşağıdaki adrese gönderin.

Polish

Jeśli chcesz dowiedzieć się, jaka jest treść tego dokumentu, zaznacz odpowiednie pole, wpisz swoje nazwisko, adres i nr telefonu w dolnej części niniejszej strony i przeslij na poniższy adres.

Vietnamese

Nếu bạn muốn biết tài liệu này nói gì hãy đánh dấu vào hộp thích hợp, điền tên, địa chỉ và số điện thoại của bạn vào cuối trang này và gửi lại theo địa chỉ dưới đây.

Urdu

اگر آپ یہ جاننا چاہتے ہیں کہ دستاویز میں کیا لکھا ہے تو ازراہ کرم مناسب باکس میں صحیح کا نشان لگائیے اور اپنا نام، پتہ اور فون نمبر اس صفحہ کے نیچے لکھئے اور اسے نیچے دیئے گئے پتہ پر واپس بھیج دیجئے۔

Chinese

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