

Which Students can claim Housing Benefit?

Most full-time students cannot claim Housing and Council Tax Benefit. This is because the Government expects them to use other money like their grant, student loan or access funds to pay their rent.

As a Student you might be able to claim if you:

- are a part-time student (studying under 16 hours per week)
- are a student who is responsible for a child or young person (as part of a couple, where both are students, as a single parent)
- are a single foster parent
- are 60 or over
- get Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- meet the conditions for the Disability Premium or Severe Disability Premium (these are allowances we use to work out benefit for people who meet certain conditions)
- you have been or have been treated as incapable to work for 28 weeks (as decided by the DWP)
- qualify for a disabled student's allowance because they are deaf
- are under 19 and not in higher education e.g. not at university
- have a partner who is not a student (the non student will need to claim)
- have had to interrupt their course, with the approval of the college or university, due to illness or caring responsibilities.

As a student that can claim, any grants and loans will be treated as income. Grant income means any kind of educational award or grant. Student loans are treated as income if you are eligible to receive one. We take it into account even if you choose to borrow a lesser amount than is available or whether you choose not to take out a loan at all. A weekly income disregard of £10.00 applies to loan income. Any other sources of income will be treated in the normal way for Housing and Council Tax Benefit.

Students from abroad

If you are a student and come to study from outside Europe, you will probably not be able to claim any Housing Benefit, even if you are in one of the groups of students who can. It depends on the conditions under which you came into this country.

For any student from abroad, we will need information about your immigration status before we can deal with your Housing Benefit claim.

If you are a student from Europe, you can only claim Housing Benefit if you fall into one of the categories of students who can claim. See above for details

If you are not sure whether if your can claim, please contact us for advice.

Student nurses

Students funded by the National Health Service only can claim Housing Benefit under the same rules that apply to other students.