

How much support can I claim from Discretionary Funds

- Students must be “ordinarily resident in Scotland.”
- Applications are assessed in accordance with the respective policies published by the Scottish Funding Council (FE) and the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (HE).
- The assessment process is based on need and is means-tested against household income.
- Financial Support is currently limited to the College Academic Calendar (42 weeks period).
- The total award per student will not exceed £5,000 **(FE)** or £3,000 **(HE)**
- Discretionary Funds are provided primarily to support housing and/or accommodation costs for students who cannot access other government support for these costs.
- Other evidence of financial hardship will be considered.
- Discretionary Funds are “cash limited.”

Am I eligible for support from the Discretionary Fund?

To receive Discretionary support, you must:

- Make an application for support via the student portal.
- Present evidence as requested to support your application via the student portal.
- If you are enrolled on a **Further Education** course (up to but not including HNC/HND) you **MUST** have made an application for FE Bursary support before you may be considered for Discretionary support.
- If you are enrolled on a **Higher Education** course (HNC/HND) you **MUST** be in receipt of the support available to you via SAAS (e.g. non-repayable grants & bursaries AND Student Loan). If SAAS does not meet the cost of your tuition, you **MUST** have entered into an agreement with SLC to personally meet these costs.

You will **not** normally receive Discretionary support if:

- You are not “ordinarily resident” in Scotland.
- You have a household income above £38,000.
- You have not provided supporting evidence.
- Students are required to appropriately engage with their studies and attend all classes where possible. Payments will be withheld if attendance falls below satisfactory levels (80%).
- Any change in circumstances must be provided to the Student Funding Team.

Policy review date 19 June 2026

How do I apply?

Once you give an acceptance to your offer, this will enable your access to the Discretionary Fund application process within the Funding option of the student portal.

You must fill this out ASAP with **all supporting documentation** to ensure you receive the support.

The assessment process will normally commence after the start of the academic session.

You will be advised in writing of any offer of an award.

Payment will be made directly by BACS to the bank account details provided by applicants.

If you require any help and support, please email: bursaries@slc.ac.uk