



An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta
Department of Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science



Student Accommodation Assistance

Financial Assistance for Traveller, Roma and Care-Experienced Students in Higher Education

Frequently Asked Questions for Students

September 2026

What is the Student Accommodation Assistance?

This funding provides financial support to Traveller and Roma students, and students with experience of the care system, to help with accommodation costs while living independently and attending higher education.

Is the Student Accommodation Assistance available in my college?

Below is a list of all participating Higher Education Institutions.

Universities:

- Atlantic Technological University (including St Angela's College)
- Munster Technological University
- South East Technological University
- Technological University of the Shannon
- Technological University Dublin
- Dublin City University
- Maynooth University
- Trinity College Dublin
- University College Cork
- University College Dublin
- University of Galway
- University of Limerick

Institutes of Technology:

- Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology
- Dundalk Institute of Technology

Other Colleges:

- Marino Institute of Education
- Mary Immaculate College
- National College of Art and Design
- National College of Ireland
- St Patrick's College, Maynooth
- Royal College of Surgeons Ireland, University of Medicine and Health Sciences

Who can apply for the Student Accommodation Assistance?

To be eligible for the Student Accommodation Assistance, you must meet all of the following criteria:

- You must be ordinarily resident in Ireland.
- You must be a member of one or more of the following groups:
 - Irish Traveller Community
 - Roma Community
 - Have experience of the care system between the ages of 12-18 and are not in receipt of an aftercare allowance.
- You must be living independently for the purpose of attending third level education; this includes renting accommodation away from your home or primary residence during the academic year, with a lease of up to 12 months in duration.
- You must not be in receipt of another public accommodation support such as HAP, Rent Supplement or any other accommodation related support that would result in duplicate funding.
- You may live in on-campus or off-campus purpose-built student accommodation, private rented accommodation, shared accommodation, or rent-a-room accommodation. The Student Accommodation Assistance cannot be used towards mortgage repayments or rent payable under social housing tenancies.
- You must be registered on a higher education course of at least one year's duration.
- In addition, you must meet the eligibility criteria set out in section 2.1 of the Student Assistance Fund Guidelines.

You can apply for the Student Accommodation Assistance if you are a full-time or part-time undergraduate or postgraduate student and meet the eligibility criteria above. Mature students and students repeating a year are also eligible to apply.

When can I apply?

Check with the access office or student support office in your college. It is important to apply as soon as you can. The closing date for applications is the 16th of October 2026.

How do I apply?

Applications are made through the access office in your college.

What do I need to provide?

You should provide a copy of your lease agreement showing your monthly rent amount. If you do not have a lease agreement, you should provide proof of rent payments, such as a bank statement showing the payments or receipts from your landlord.

What is meant by experience of the care system?

You have experience of the care system in the Republic of Ireland under a care order provided for under the Child Care Act 1991, including Section 5 of the Act.

Does it matter what course I am on?

You must be registered on a full-time or part-time course leading to a higher education award (National Framework of Qualifications levels 6-10) at one of the eligible institutions listed above.

What type of accommodation is the funding available for?

You can use this funding towards a range of accommodation types, including:

- Purpose-built student accommodation (public and private).
- Private rented accommodation.
- Shared accommodation (privately rented).
- Digs accommodation.

What accommodation is excluded?

- Renting from family, including extended family.
- Renting from foster parents/former foster parents.
- Your primary/main residence.

Can I apply if I already receive Housing Assistance?

No. You cannot receive the Student Accommodation Assistance if you are already receiving another accommodation support, such as the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), Rent Supplement, or any other housing assistance.

Can I apply for the Student Accommodation Assistance to cover my mortgage costs while attending my course?

No, the funding is not provided for mortgage costs.

Can I apply for the Student Accommodation Assistance to cover my Social Housing rental costs?

No, the funding is not provided for rental costs associated with Social Housing.

I am a mature student; can I apply for the Student Accommodation Assistance?

Yes, you can apply if you meet the eligibility criteria.

If you are a mature student with experience of the care system between the ages of 12 and 18, you must provide evidence that you did not receive aftercare payments.

I am a part-time student; can I apply for the Student Accommodation Assistance?

Yes, you can apply if you meet the eligibility criteria.

I am a post-graduate student; can I apply for the Student Accommodation Assistance?

Yes, you can apply if you meet the eligibility criteria.

I am repeating a year, can I apply for the Student Accommodation Assistance?

Yes, you can apply if you meet the eligibility criteria.

I am on placement as part of my course, can I apply for the Student Accommodation Assistance?

Yes, you can apply if you meet the eligibility criteria.

I am an international student; can I apply for the Student Accommodation Assistance?

No, International/non-EU fee paying students are not eligible for this assistance.

I am an incoming Erasmus student; can I apply for the Student Accommodation Assistance?

No, incoming Erasmus students are not eligible for this assistance.

I am participating in Erasmus+ as part of my course, can I apply for the Student Accommodation Assistance?

However, Student Accommodation Assistance cannot be used to duplicate accommodation funding received from another public source. If you are already receiving Erasmus+ funding or another public support towards your accommodation costs, any award will be assessed in line with the principle of no double funding and may be adjusted accordingly. Eligibility will be determined based on your individual circumstances, verified accommodation costs, and compliance with the scheme requirements

Can I apply for general SAF if I have been awarded the Student Accommodation Assistance?

Yes, you can also avail of SAF support in line with the general SAF guidelines.

I have care-experience, how do I show I meet the eligibility criteria?

Your college can provide you with a form to be completed by your local aftercare drop-in service or Tusla support worker.

This will also be made available at <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-further-and-higher-education-research-innovation-and-science/services/student-accommodation-assistance/>.

Is the application process confidential?

The Student Accommodation Assistance is administered on a strictly confidential basis by your college. Any information you provide as part of your application is protected under the data protection regulations of your college.

Am I guaranteed the Student Accommodation Assistance if I meet the eligibility criteria?

No. Meeting the eligibility criteria does not guarantee that you will receive funding, as support will depend on the level of demand and the funding available.

It is important to understand that it is your responsibility to pay any rental commitments in line with your lease agreement.

When will I hear if I have been successful?

All applications will be processed by the access office in your college. You will be notified by November whether your application has been successful.

You will receive an email to your student email account. If your application has been approved this email will state the amount of your payment and the date that payment will be made.

If my application is successful, how much assistance will I get?

The amount of Student Accommodation Assistance you receive will depend on your verified accommodation costs, your assessed level of need, and the funding available under the scheme.

Assistance will not exceed €6,000 in an academic or calendar year, or €3,000 for one semester/half year.

For example,

- If you incur accommodation costs of €4,000, you may receive support of up to €4,000.
- If you incur accommodation costs in excess of €6,000, you may receive support of up to €6,000.

If I am successful, how will the Student Accommodation Assistance be paid?

If your application is successful, the Student Accommodation Assistance will normally be paid directly to you by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) in one or more instalments. The maximum amount available is €6,000 for the 2026/27 academic year.

Before payments are made, your college may confirm that you are attending your course on a regular basis.

If you receive an award, you will be required to sign a declaration confirming that the funding will be used for its intended purpose.

If you provide false information, or do not inform your college of changes in your circumstances that affect your eligibility, you may be disqualified from receiving

The Student Accommodation Assistance is funded by the Dormant Accounts Fund

further support under the Student Accommodation Assistance and the Student Assistance Fund (SAF).

Will I get the Student Accommodation Assistance for every year I am in college?

No, this is not guaranteed. This application is only for the 2026/27 academic year.