



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



## **Student Accommodation Assistance**

### **Frequently Asked Questions for Students**

#### **Financial Assistance for Accommodation for Traveller, Roma, and Care Experienced Students in Higher Education**

#### **What is the Student Accommodation Assistance?**

For the 2024/2025 academic year, funding is being provided to assist students from Traveller and Roma backgrounds and those with experience of the care system with the cost of accommodation, when living independently while attending third level education.

The aim of the Student Accommodation Assistance is to alleviate the cost of accommodation as a barrier to accessing 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 students must be a member of one or more of the following groups:

- Traveller Community
- Roma Community
- Have experience of the care system between the ages of 16-18 and are not in receipt of an aftercare allowance.

**What is meant by experience of the care system?**

You have had care experience within the Republic of Ireland under a care order as legislated for in the Childcare Act 1991.

**Does it matter what course I am on?**

Eligible students must be registered on full-time or part-time courses leading to a higher education award (National Framework of Qualifications level 6-10) in Irish universities, institutes of technology and other approved colleges as outlined above.

**What type of accommodation is the funding available for?**

This funding is available for all types of accommodation, including but not limited to:

- HEI owned purpose-built student accommodation.
- Privately-owned purpose-built student accommodation.
- 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 residence

**Can I apply if I already receive Housing Assistance?**

No, students must not be in receipt of another accommodation support e.g., Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), Rent Supplement or any other housing assistance to be eligible for the student accommodation assistance.

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

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

Mature students with experience of the care system between the ages of 16-18 must show that they 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.

## **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 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2025.

## **How do I apply?**

Applications are made through the access office in your college.

## **What do I need to provide?**

Your lease agreement should be provided, which must include your rental fees per month.

For those who do not have a lease agreement, proof of rent payments should be provided for example by producing a bank statement showing these payments or producing a receipt of rent payment.

For those now applying for the full academic year 2024/2025, the lease agreement and/or proof of rent paid should be provided.

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

Your college can provide you with a form that you can bring to your local aftercare drop-in service clinic or to your local social worker to complete. This form can also be downloaded at <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/84b27-student-accommodation-assistance-frequently-asked-questions-for-students>.

A list of drop-in service clinics can be found at [https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Tusla\\_Aftercare\\_Drop\\_In\\_Service\\_National\\_Contact\\_List\\_j23.pdf](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Tusla_Aftercare_Drop_In_Service_National_Contact_List_j23.pdf).

## **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, funding will depend on levels of demand. 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 in March if you have been unsuccessful/successful in your application.

You will be emailed 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?**

Amounts will vary depending on the cost of your accommodation. The maximum assistance available in an academic or a calendar year is €6,000.

For example,

- If a student is paying €4,000 in rental fees, they should apply for no more than €4,000 in assistance.
- If a student is paying more than €6,000 in rental fees, they should apply for the maximum €6,000 in assistance.
- If a student is applying for assistance for just one semester, the maximum assistance is €3,000 however, if a student is paying €2,000 in rental fees for the one semester, they can only apply for €2,000 in assistance.

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

If your course runs from January to December 2025, the assistance will be paid into your bank account in two separate instalments. One payment will be made in March 2025 and the second will be paid in September 2025.

If you are now applying for the academic year 2024/2025, you will be paid the assistance into your bank account in one payment in March 2025.

If you have applied for just one semester's accommodation, you will be paid the assistance into your bank account in one payment in March 2025.

Before payments are made administrators will ensure that the student is attending their course on a regular basis.

*The Student Accommodation Assistance is funded by the Dormant Accounts Fund*

It is important to understand that it is your responsibility to pay any rental commitments in line with your lease agreement. The Student Accommodation Assistance will not be paid in advance.

**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 2024/25 academic year and for courses beginning in January 2025.