



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

December 2025

What is the Student Accommodation Assistance?

For the 2025/2026 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:

- 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.

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, including under Section 5 of the Act.

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:

- 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, 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.

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.

Mature students with experience of the care system between the ages of 12-18 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.

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

No, incoming Erasmus 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 6th of February 2026.

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.

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 Tusla support worker to complete.

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, 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 you are paying €4,000 in rental fees, you should apply for no more than €4,000 in assistance.
- If you are paying more than €6,000 in rental fees, you should apply for the maximum €6,000 in assistance.
- If you are applying for assistance for just one semester, the maximum assistance is €3,000 however, if you are paying €2,000 in rental fees for the one semester, you 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 2026, the assistance will be paid into your bank account in two separate instalments. One payment will be made in March 2026, and the second will be paid in July 2026.

If you are now applying for the full academic year 2025/2026, you will be paid the assistance into your bank account in one payment in March 2026.

The Student Accommodation Assistance is funded by the Dormant Accounts Fund

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 2026.

Before payments are made administrators will ensure that the student is attending their course on a regular basis. If the student is not attending their course or takes a leave of absence the payment will not be made.

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 2025/26 academic year.