

Education Maintenance Allowance

Frequently Asked Questions • Session 2020/2021



What is an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)?

EMA is an allowance of £30 per week which can be paid to eligible young people who either remain in education after they are legally permitted to leave school or are attending a learning base. It can be paid for a maximum of 3 years (4 years for those young people who may need additional time to further their potential).

The young person has to complete a Learning or Activity Agreement which is a contract between the young person and their school or base.

When can I apply?

If you are 16 years of age on or before 30 September 2020, you may be eligible for an EMA from the beginning of school term (full award). If the application is received after 30 September 2020 the award will commence from the date of receipt of the application.

If you are 16 years of age on or between 1 October 2020 and 28 February 2021, you may be eligible for an EMA from January 2021 (part award). If the application is received after 28 February 2021 the award will commence from the date of receipt of the application.

Cut-off date for receiving new applications from school students for session 2020/2021 is 31 March 2021.

If the documents have not been received in this office within the three week timescale the applicant may be required to re-apply and this may result in the loss of EMA payments.

Who can apply?

An EMA may be granted to any eligible young person who:

- *was born on or between 1 March 2001 and 28 February 2005 and either;*
- *remains in full-time education within the Perth & Kinross Council boundary beyond the statutory leaving age; or*
- *is on an Activity Agreement.*

NB: residential criteria may apply.

How is an Education Maintenance Allowance calculated?

EMA awards will be payable according to the taxable income of the household of the young person. During session 2020/2021 there will be 2 categories of payment:

- *For households with one dependent child (the applicant), the income threshold is **£24,421**.*
- *There is an additional higher threshold of **£26,884** for families with more than one child in the household.*

Can applications be made for more than one young person in a family?

Yes, if their date of birth falls on or between 1 March 2001 and 28 February 2005.

(continued overleaf)

When is the EMA paid?

The EMA is a weekly amount, normally paid fortnightly, two weeks in arrears.

How is the EMA paid?

It will be paid into the **young person's** bank account. If the young person does not have a Bank or Building Society account they will be required to open one. This account must accept BACS payments (please check with your bank if you are unsure).

Will I be paid for holidays?

No - you will only be paid for the weeks you attend.

Does the young person's performance affect the EMA?

Yes - payment can be withheld, without warning, based on the following:

- *If attendance falls below 100% in any week - no payment will be made for that week unless all absence has been covered by a medical certificate or been approved by education staff. Lateness can also affect payments. Full details of attendance requirements will be issued to all successful applicants.*
- *If the Learning or Activity Agreement conditions are not met (eg attainment and conduct).*

What period does this application cover?

An award, if made, will be for a maximum of one year only (August 2020 - July 2021). ***A new application must be submitted each academic year.***

The information included in this document is intended as a general guide and it should not be regarded as a statement of the statutory position.

Please note the office is currently closed due to COVID-19 and we are working from home.

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