

STUDENTS

1. EMA (EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE)

2. GRANTS AND STUDENT LOANS

3. STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

1. EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

Education Maintenance allowance (EMA) payments will continue for young people. Department Staff at South Ayrshire Council are working from home and will ensure this continues.

2. GRANT FUNDING AND STUDENT LOANS

Students in receipt of grant payments for their studies, but are unable to attend educational establishments are being advised that their student funding will continue until the end of their courses. Colleges and Universities have placed FAQ sections on their website with email contacts for student funding departments should any specific questions arise.

The Student Loans Company has confirmed that students WILL be paid their loans/grants next term as normal (for people awarded an 'away from home' loan this will still be paid at the normal rate even if at home).

Most student services and funding staff are working from home and Hardship Funds are still operational, but will be subject to demand.

Anyone receiving Universal Credit will have their student funding counted as income until the last assessment period before the 'long holiday' commences. For example if your course ends in June, and you continue receiving your student grant or loan payments, they will be used as income up to and including your May assessment period.

3. PAYING FOR STUDENT ACCOMMODATION:

People currently living in university accommodation may wish to go home for the third term, as most institutions have suspended face-to-face teaching.

Some universities have agreed they will not charge accommodation fees for students who will not be living in halls in the summer term, others have agreed that students living in university-owned accommodation will be released from contracts earlier provided they have followed university advice to return home, have emptied their room and returned keys. Policies differ between educational establishments so anyone in this position should contact their college/university to see what their policy is and whether rent is still payable.

It is likely that anyone in private rented accommodation will have signed a tenancy until at least the end of the academic year and will have to pay the agreed rent until the end of the contract.

For anyone unable to pay rent, the guidance for renters in Info Sheet 4 apply, but we would always encourage explaining the circumstances to the landlord so that they're informed and a solution may be reached.

**If you have any further questions about any of the above topics,
or if you require Housing Advice or Information**

**Email advice@ayrhousingaidcentre.com or call, text or whatsapp us on 07549 603895 /
07760750256 or contact us via facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ayrhac>**