

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE 2015- 2016

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available to pupils 16+, who show reasonable promise of successfully completing a sound programme of study at secondary school or FE college.

What is an EMA?

EMA is a weekly payment of £30 paid **directly** to young people from families with a household income of up to £20,351 if 1 dependent child in the household or up to £22,403 if 2+ children in the household who stay on in further education after they have reached the statutory school leaving age. They must also have completed S4.

Why is the Government providing this financial support?

The Government recognises that for some young people there are financial barriers to participating in education, particularly those from low-income households. In addition, from the pilot scheme has shown EMA has a positive impact by increasing the numbers of young people participating in post-16 education, reducing the numbers who drop out of education and by providing incentives that contribute to higher attainment.

Who will be entitled to an EMA?

Any young person who is thinking about staying in further education and whose household income is as stated at number 1 above should be applying for an EMA. The household income assessed for EMA purposes is the same as that used by the Inland Revenue for assessing Tax Credits.

For how long will each young person receive their EMA?

Most young people will get their EMA for one year (dependant on household income) and can apply the following year if returning for sixth year.

So how do young people apply?

EMA entitlement is based on an assessment of household income in the previous financial year. Application forms will be assessed the Local Authority Education Department or by the FE college of choice. The application forms are available from the school office

Other Information

A successful applicant will receive EMA payments once they have enrolled at a school or college and have started a valid programme of study. **All payments will be direct to the student through his/her bank account. Payments will only be made to those who have satisfied the agreed attendance requirements.** For further information please contact:

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