

SELF-SUPPORTING STATUS

You must meet one or more of the following conditions to receive support as a self-supporting student.

- You have reached the age of 25 before the start date of your course.
- You have a child who is dependent on you on the start date of your course, and who lives with you for the majority of the week.
- You have no parents living.
- You are married, in a civil partnership or live with a partner in an established relationship prior to the start date of your course. This does not include situations where you were married but that marriage broke down prior to the start date of the course.
- You have supported yourself financially for at least 3 years prior to the start date of your course. Any period of self-support may be counted, provided it occurred **before** the start date of the course (the periods of self-support do not have to be continuous, i.e. they just have to total a minimum of 36 months). This includes periods where you were either:
 - In employment and earning equal to or more than current income support levels,
 - Supported by a partner with earnings equal to or more than current income support levels,
 - On a training programme operated by or on behalf of the Scottish Government, or Skills Development Scotland.
 - In receipt of unemployment benefit / jobseeker's allowance and / or can provide confirmation that they were available or registered for employment or actively seeking employment.
 - In receipt of employment and support allowance, sickness benefit, invalidity pension, incapacity benefit, maternity allowance, severe disablement allowance, statutory sick pay or statutory maternity pay.
 - In receipt of income support.
 - In receipt of Universal Credit.
 - Living away from the parental home and can provide a copy of a formal rent agreement for the relevant period.
 - In receipt of housing benefit for the relevant period.
 - Caring for a person (adult or child) dependent on them. You must be the primary carer for an adult.
 - Estranged from their parent and can provide proof of this.

It is not stipulated how much you must have earned to be classed as self-supporting. However, to qualify, you must be able to prove that you have earned enough to support yourself during the period in question. We will use current income support levels as a guide amount to assess you by.

If you were working part-time living rent-free with your parents, then you would not normally be regarded as self-supporting, unless you can clearly demonstrate that you have contributed appropriately to the household budget.

- If there are any other special circumstances that you think may apply to you, please [contact us](#) for advice.