

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA)



Department for the
Economy
An Rohn
Geilleagair
www.economy-ni.gov.uk



Department of
Education
www.education-ni.gov.uk

With EMA **you could**
get £30 per week
to help with the costs
of your education

This leaflet will tell you if you could get **EMA**
and how to apply.

Keep an eye on www.nidirect.gov.uk
from spring 2026 for updates and
more information.





EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA) - 2026/27

Could I get EMA?

You could get EMA if your answer is yes to **all** of the following questions:

- Will you be 16, 17, 18 or 19 on or between 2 July 2025 and 1 July 2026?
- Will you be studying full-time at school or a minimum of 15 hours per week at a further education college?
- Will you be studying in Northern Ireland?
- Is your annual household income £20,500 or less and you're the only young person in your household?

or

Is your annual household income £22,500 or less, and there's at least one other young person in your household who qualifies for Child Benefit?

What could I get?

You could get £30 per week, paid directly into your bank account every 2 weeks. This is based on your attendance at school or college.

As well as your weekly EMA entitlement, you **could** also get bonus payments of £100 in January and June. This is based on your performance at school or college.

When can I apply?

Application forms will be available from spring 2026. You can get one from your school or college or download a copy from **www.nidirect.gov.uk**

Keep an eye on the website for updates about EMA and when the application forms will be available.

You can apply before you get your GCSE results or before you've decided where you'll study.