

Could you qualify for a £30 weekly allowance?

- ✓ **Age**
- ✓ **Income**
- ✓ **Residency**
- ✓ **Course**
- ✓ **Learning Agreement**
- ✓ **Attendance**

Session 2025-2026



Scan the QR code to
apply for EMA!



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Age

You were born between 1 March 2006 and 28 February 2010.

EMAs are designed to support young people in post-compulsory education. Therefore, there are two intakes of eligibility to reflect the two statutory school leaving dates in Scotland:

- **Autumn Intake** - If you were born between 1 March 2006 and 30 September 2009, you may qualify for EMA for the full academic year from August 2025.
- **Winter Intake** - If you were born between 1 October 2009 and 28 February 2010, you may qualify for EMA from January 2026.

EMA is not available to young people still in compulsory school education.

Income

Gross taxable household income will determine your eligibility for an EMA. Where your household income is:

£24,421 (one dependant*)

£26,884 (one+ dependant*)

or below, you may be eligible for a weekly allowance of £30.

*Dependent children are young people:

- Up to the age of 16
- Between the ages of 16 and 25 who are in further or higher education

There are two methods of determining household income:

If your household is in receipt of Universal Credit, we would look for your most recent Universal Credit Statement (and most recent payslips if applicable).

If your household is NOT in receipt of Universal Credit, we would look for documentation to support household income for the previous financial year, 6 April 2024 to 5 April 2025.

Residency

To be considered eligible in terms of residency, you must meet the residency criteria set out in the Student Support Regulations (Scotland) 2022.

In general, you would qualify where:

- You are ordinarily resident in Scotland on the relevant date, i.e. the start date of your course.
- You have been resident in the UK for 3 years immediately preceding the start date of your course.

Course

You must normally be on a recognised full-time non-advanced course of study. For EMA purposes “full time” means *at least 21 guided learning hours per week.

You can attend separate courses which are individually less than 21 hours, providing that they amount to 21 hours.

Learning Agreement

To be eligible for an EMA, young people must have an acceptable Learning Agreement/Timetable in place.

You must complete what is agreed in terms of attendance, coursework and progress.

EMA Support for Young People with Additional Support Needs or Vulnerable Young People

Young people within this category may qualify for flexibility in their entitlement to an EMA. Please speak to your Guidance Teacher for further information.

Attendance

You are required to have **100% attendance** to qualify for your weekly EMA payment.

- You can self-certify for up to five days (10 half days) sickness absence during an academic session.
- Absences of five days, or more, must be covered by a doctor's medical certificate for your EMA payment to be made.
- If you are absent for a period of more than three weeks, because of illness, your allowance will be reviewed.

GPs should not be approached for medical certificates for periods of absence which are shorter than five consecutive days.

How To Apply

If you are remaining at a North Ayrshire Council school, our online application will open on 2 June 2025, and you can apply by visiting www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/ (Search Education Maintenance Allowance).

If you intend to go to College, you should contact the college direct for an EMA application.

EMA is paid in addition to other support and benefits provided by the Government. Your family will not lose out on other money if you get an EMA.

Further Information

- Website: www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk (search Education Maintenance Allowance)
- Email: ema@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
- Scottish Government website: www.mygov.scot/EMA
- Contact your Careers Officer or Guidance Teacher