

# EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

## SESSION 2020/2021

### 1) What is an EMA?

EMA is a weekly allowance of £30, paid directly to students from low-income families who wish to stay on in further education after they reach statutory school leaving age and has attained 100% weekly attendance. All payments will be made direct to a student through his/her bank account when awarded.

### (2) Why is the Government providing this financial support?

We recognise that for some students there are financial barriers to continuing with education, particularly those from a low-income household. Therefore EMA has been focused to target support at those students who need it most.

### (3) Who will be entitled to an EMA?

Any student who was born between 1 March 2001 and the last day of February 2005 who is thinking of staying in further education, should be applying for an EMA if they meet one of the following criteria.

#### Annual Income

£0-£24,421 (for families with a single \*dependent child in the household)

£0-£26,884 (for families with more than one \*dependent child in the household)

\* Dependent Children are those up to the age of 16 and those over the age of 16 and up to the age of 25 if they are in full-time education and training.

### (4) How long will a student receive an EMA?

EMAs can be paid for up to 3 years and up to 3 out of 4 for students with additional support needs. Most students will receive an EMA for two years (as long as their family income does not rise above the relevant

### (5) How does a student apply?

If a student's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday falls between 1 March 2018 and 30 September 2020 they should apply for an EMA which would commence from the beginning of the new academic year (ie August 2020). If a student's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday falls between 1 October 2020 and the last day of February 2021 the EMA would start in January 2021.

**NB: No application will be processed for academic year 2020/2021 after 31 March 2021.**

***Students meeting the required criteria, who wish to leave school and continue their education at a Further Education College, should apply directly to the college they will be attending.***

**If you think you may be entitled to EMA, please visit [www.midlothian.gov.uk](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk) and search for EMA. You will find the application form to complete electronically as well as guidance.**

**For further information contact**

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