

Did you know that carers can study and claim Carer's Allowance?

Carers often think that they are not eligible for Carer's Allowance if they are in full-time education. However, they might be able to claim if they are:

over the age of 16

caring for someone for 35 hours per week or more

on a course that requires less than 21 hours of study per week

For carer's allowance, 'study' includes:

- Receiving instruction or tuition;
- Supervised study (including work set by tutors for students to complete in their own time, on or off the provider's premises);
- Exams, practical work or placements;
- Any exercise, experiment, or project which forms part of the course.

Undergraduate degree courses

A student on a full-time undergraduate degree course will not qualify for Carer's Allowance unless they can prove that they are not undertaking all of their course by arrangement with their degree provider, or a similar type of exception.

If a student in your college makes a claim, the Carer's Allowance Unit may contact you to confirm:

- **the student's name**
- **the name of the course or programme they are registered on**
- **the date they started the course**
- **the date when the course will end**
- **how you describe or define the attendance requirements of the course**
- **the number of hours they are expected to study per week to complete their course (this includes the total number of expected hours spent in and outside the classroom)**

It is important that you support your students and describe their course correctly. For college courses, you need to be accurate about the **number of required study hours per week**.

The Carer's Allowance Unit may also contact the student to confirm these details, so make sure they also know the requirements of their course.



To find out more about Carer's Allowance and the eligibility criteria, go to

www.gov.uk/carers-allowance

or telephone the Carer's Allowance Unit on

0800 731 0297 / textphone 0800 731 0317

For materials to raise carers' awareness of the Carer's Allowance eligibility criteria, visit

www.learningandwork.org.uk/carers-allowance-leaflets-and-posters

If a person isn't eligible for Carer's Allowance, they may be able to claim Carer's Credit, which is a National Insurance credit to help fill gaps in a person's National Insurance record. Find out more at

www.gov.uk/carers-credit