

CHILDCARE SUPPORT

There are two childcare support schemes available through Lincoln College. They are the Care to Learn scheme and the Lincoln College 20+ Childcare Learner Support Fund scheme.

Your childcare provider must be on the appropriate Ofsted register for the age of the child(ren) you wish them to care for.

This can include:

- A Childminder
- A Preschool Playgroup
- A Day Nursery
- Breakfast Club/Afterschool Club

You must be the main carer and in receipt of Child Benefit for your child(ren) for whom you are claiming childcare support.

If you are in receipt of, or become eligible for Government funded hours, these hours must be used first. The Childcare Support Funds will only support additional hours beyond the Government funded hours based on your timetabled provision.

Care to Learn scheme*

The Care to Learn scheme helps young parents aged under 20 at the start of their course pay for childcare for their child while they study. This scheme is not means-tested.

Care to Learn can help with the cost of:

•C2L can provide childcare and travel support up to a maximum of £180.00 per week based on your timetable at college. If your costs are more than the £180.00 Care to Learn maximum, further support will only be available if you meet the eligibility criteria for the Learner Support Fund. If you do not meet the eligibility criteria, it is your responsibility to pay any outstanding amount above the Care to Learn maximum of £180.00 per week.

•C2L may pay for travel costs, where appropriate, if these are necessary for you to take your child(ren) between your childcare provider and home. C2L travel costs are only paid if they are not being met from the Learner Support Fund and are additional to your normal travel costs from home to the college.

•C2L can pay for deposits up to a maximum of £250.00 if the childcare provider requires this.

•C2L will pay any registration fees that are charged by your childcare provider, up to a maximum of £80.00 per child. This is a one off payment and will not be paid for subsequent academic years if you use the same childcare provider.

•C2L may pay a maximum of £180.00 a week towards the cost of a summer retainer fee. This only applies if you finish study in one year and continue your study in the next academic year (other rules will apply).

20+ Childcare Learner Support Fund*

The Lincoln College 20+ Childcare Learner Support Fund can contribute up to 100% of your total childcare costs for the days or hours you have a timetabled lesson at college. After deductions (e.g. government funding for 2- and 3-year-olds) the maximum award per academic year is £8,600.00 (£200 per week) regardless of the number of children claimed for and/or childcare providers used.

To receive support, you must be aged 20 or over on the first day of your course, enrolled on a DfE funded course and be in receipt of one of the benefits below:

- Income Support
- Universal Credit - only where assessed annual net earnings when added to your Universal Credit monthly payments do not exceed £45,000pa.
- Working Tax Credit/Child Tax Credit, but only where Total Income added to your Tax Credit award for the period shown on your Final or Amended Tax Credit Award Notice for 2025/2026 is less than £45,000pa.

You (and where applicable your partner) may be required to sign an income/savings and investments declaration and may also be requested to provide further evidence e.g. a bank statement.

Support will not be given if any of the evidence you submit shows you do not have a financial need or you (and where applicable your partner) have savings and/or any Investments exceeding £16,000.

*Other rules apply. Rules and criteria may be subject to amendment or deletion without prior notice.