

Student Assistance Fund 2017/2018

What is the Student Assistance Fund?

The Student Assistance Fund (SAF) provides financial support to students who are experiencing short or long-term financial difficulties while attending higher education. The SAF is co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Social Fund as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning.

What can I use it for?

The Student Assistance Fund is available to help students with costs such as:

- Books and other class materials
- Rent, heating and lighting bills
- Food
- Essential travel
- In the case of parent students, childcare costs
- Medical costs

What costs are not covered?

Tuition fees, registration fees, student loan repayments or any costs paid by St Angela's College are not covered by SAF.

Is it confidential?

Yes, all applications to the Fund are strictly confidential. To comply with ESF reporting and audit requirements, St Angela's College return data on participants in the SAF to the Higher Education Authority (HEA).

Who can apply?

Students on part time or full time courses leading to a higher education award (NFQ level 6-10) in St Angela's college are eligible to apply for the Student Assistance Fund.

PhD students are funded for years 1-4.

Students participating on a second qualification at the same or a lower level are not eligible for funding.

Please note that to be considered for the fund, you must be registered as a student in St Angela's College for 2017/2018.

When can I apply?

It is important to apply for funding as soon as you can.

The closing date for SAF applications in 2017/2018 is February 22nd 2018.

How do I Apply?

- **Download, print and complete** an application form for the Student Assistance Fund from the college website. Please make sure you explain your financial circumstances on the last page of the application form.
<http://www.stangelas.nuigalway.ie/departments/details.php?dept=Student Services&&info=Student Assistance Fund>
- **Contact** the Student Services Officer Una Roberts (phone 071 9195514 or email uroberts@stangelas.nuigalway.ie) to let me know about your application. **Full time students** meet me in the Student Services Office to go through your SAF application. **Part time students** post or scan the application form and documents to me.
- **Enclose** all relevant documentation with your application

What documents do I need?

Your own documents (choose relevant documents from the list below):

- Sample expenditure receipts relevant to your application e.g. Transport receipts, Rent, Food, Academic Materials, Childcare, Heat, Electricity
- Bank Statement showing at least 6 weeks of recent transactions (please note your name and account number must be shown on the bank statement)
- Confirmation of applicant's income (P60, P21 or payslip)
- Confirmation of Social Welfare payment to applicant
- Copy of Medical Card
- Details of SUSI grant
- Your spouse/partner's income details / social welfare payments

Your parents/guardians documents (if applicable):

- Confirmation of parents/guardians income (P60, P21 or payslip)
- Confirmation of Social Welfare payment to parents/guardians

What Happens to my Application?

- All completed applications are brought before the Welfare Committee to allocate funding. The Committee may ask you to provide more information about your application.
- There are limited funds available so the Welfare Committee prioritise those who are most in need and not every request for funding can be met.
- You will receive an email to your student account to let you know the outcome of your application

Where can I find further information?

HEA website (Student Assistance Fund) www.studentfinance.ie

St Angela's website (Student Assistance Fund)

<http://www.stangelas.nuigalway.ie/departments/details.php?dept=Student Services&&info=Student Assistance Fund>



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Co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Union



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