

Lead Scotland



Supporting you at college



Easy Read



About this Easy Read document



This Easy Read document is for people with additional support needs who are thinking about going to college.

It will tell you:



- what kinds of support you can get at college
- who will support you
- who to contact for more advice

Leaving school



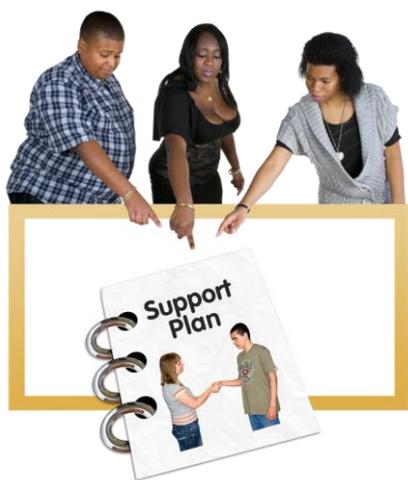
At school you might have been in a class with other people the same age as you.

But college is different.

Different people come together to learn.



Young people and adults learn together at college.



Your school will plan for the support you might need to move from school to college.



There might need to be meetings with college staff.

Or planning about the things you might need to help you learn at college.

Your school must ask you what your thoughts are about leaving school.



They might collect useful information from places like:

- the college you like
- Skills Development Scotland
- your local health and social work department



This is so that the right support can be put in place when you are moving from school to college.

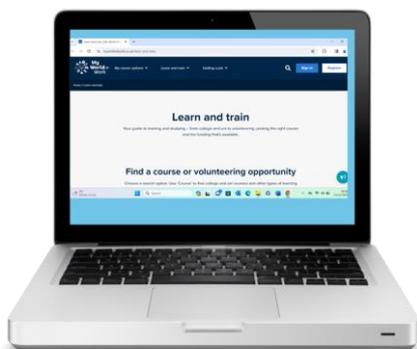


You can ask your school to get any information you want.

Going to college



There is a list of all the colleges in Scotland on [the Colleges Scotland website](#).



You can also search for college courses on [My World of Work](#).



Lots of colleges let you learn from home too.

These ways of learning are called:

- flexible courses
- distance learning courses



There are some colleges that are just for learners with additional support needs.



1 is called Corseford College, near Glasgow.

Another is called Cantraybridge College, near Inverness.



There are other colleges in the UK which are just for learners with additional support needs.

You can live at these colleges if they are too far away.



You can find information about them at [the Natspec website](#).

Click the blue bit to visit the website.



It can be quite expensive to go to one of these colleges.

You can find out more about help with funding in [our guide](#).



Colleges are much bigger than schools.

Sometimes they can have buildings in different parts of the same town or city.



Sometimes they can be busy and noisy.



You can talk to your guidance teacher at school about visiting a college to see what it is like.

Types of courses

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9



Further education means courses which are levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Higher education means courses which are levels 7, 8 and 9.

These last levels are harder.

Further education courses are:

- pre-entry – courses like life skills and taster courses
- National 2 – learners are marked on chunks of learning called Units
- National 3 - learners are marked on chunks of learning called Units
- National 4 – learners are marked on Units and a unit which covers the whole course
- Scottish Vocational Qualifications 1 (SVQs) are the same level as National 4s – but they are qualifications for different work skills, like how to communicate with customers





- National 5 – learners are marked on coursework and an exam
- Scottish Vocational Qualifications 2 are the same level as National 5s – they are qualifications for work skills
- Highers – these are qualifications that you can usually do after passing National 5s

You usually need Highers to get into university.

Higher education courses are:



- Scottish Vocational Qualifications 3 – these are level 7 and are work skills
- Advanced Highers are also level 7 – they are for learners who have passed Highers
- Higher National Certificates (HNCs) are also level 7 – these are about different types of work skills
- Scottish Vocational Qualifications 4 – these are level 8

- Higher National Diplomas (HNDs) – these are level 9

HNDs normally follow on from HNCs.

Support for learners with Additional Needs



There are lots of different types of support in college.

Here are some of them:



Support

- British Sign Language interpreters



- someone to help you in the classroom or toilet



- devices and software that are helpful and accessible



The college should have a meeting with you before you start.

This is to find out exactly what kinds of support you might need.

The meeting is called a **needs assessment**.



You can see [our fact sheet](#) about needs assessment meetings.

There is an Easy Read fact sheet on our website.



If you are disabled, you can ask your social work department to assess your care needs.

They can look at things like healthcare or social care needs while you are at college.



If you have a disability, you have rights by law and your college must help you.

Who supports people in college



There are lots of different organisations who support people in college.

For example:

- your learning needs will be supported by your college
- your personal care and health care will be supported by the local council
- your career advice will be given by a Skills Development Scotland staff member
- other needs like learning new skills might be supported by organisations like Lead Scotland



If you need to take medicines while you are at college you must tell the college.

This means they can make sure you can take your medicines easily.



You can ask your college about whether your own support worker or personal assistant can come with you.

Help with transport



If you get mobility payments for 1 of these benefits, you are expected to use it towards your travel costs for college:

- Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- Adult Disability Payment (ADP)
- Child Disability Payment (CDP)



Talk to the college and the local council to see what can be done if:

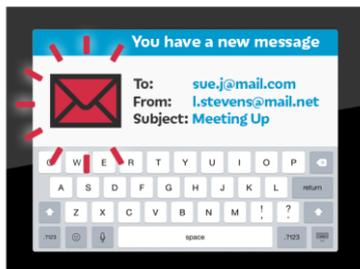
- you don't get any of these payments
- or
- you need special transport to get to college

Help with money



Help with money is also called **financial assistance** or a **bursary**.

You can find out more about getting money by clicking on the [Student Information Scotland website](#).



For Further Education courses, you will usually get an email about getting financial assistance.



You might also get a payment called the Additional Support Needs for Learning Allowance (ASNLA).



For Higher Education courses, you might be able to get financial assistance from:

- the [Student Awards Agency Scotland \(SAAS\)](#)
- the [Disabled Students Allowance \(DSA\)](#)



Disabled students can sometimes get benefits too.

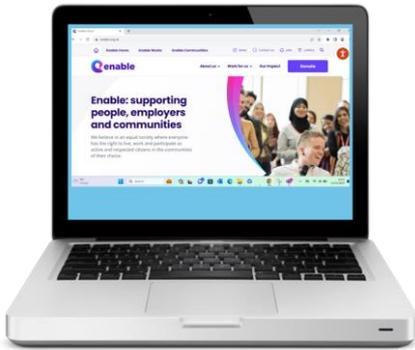
You can ask your Jobcentre Plus or your local citizen's advice centre more about this.

Organisations which can help you



Lead Scotland works to help all disabled learners and their carers to access learning.

Click on [Lead Scotland's website](#).



Enable Scotland helps people with learning disabilities and their families to work, live and take part in their local community.

Click on [Enable Scotland's website](#).



RNIB Scotland supports people with sight loss and their families.

Click on [RNIB Scotland's website](#).



Dyslexia Scotland supports anyone affected by dyslexia.

Click on [Dyslexia Scotland's website](#).



Scottish Autism supports anyone with autism.

Click on [Scottish Autism's website.](#)



National Deaf Children's Society supports deaf children and deaf young people.

Click on [National Deaf Children's Society's website.](#)



Scottish Association for Mental Health supports with people with their mental health.

Click on [SAMH's website.](#)



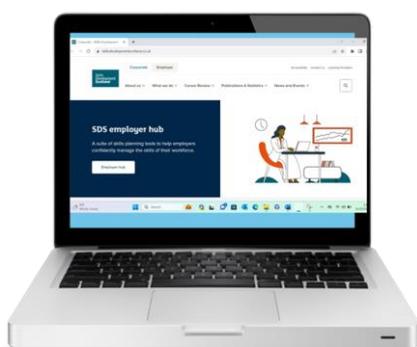
Equality Advisory and Support Service supports disabled people to understand their legal rights.

Click on [Equality Advisory and Support Service's website.](#)



Enquire gives information and advice about additional support to learn at school.

Click on [Enquire's website.](#)



Skills Development Scotland gives advice about careers and courses.

Click on [Skills Development Scotland's website.](#)



Scottish Public Services Ombudsman helps you make a complaint about a college.

Click on [SPSO's website](#).



Student Awards Agency Scotland gives funding for higher education.

Click on [SAAS's website](#).



Student Information Scotland gives information about funding at college and university.

Click on [Student Information Scotland's website](#).

