



Falkirk Council Education Services Education Maintenance Allowance



Need further information?
Check our frequently asked questions:

Why has EMA changed this year?

While EMA has provided important support for some young people, there are many who would have stayed on and progressed at school or college whether they received EMA or not. Following a consultation, Scottish Government has refocused EMA to target support more effectively at the young people who need it most. Around 70% of applicants who would have qualified under the old scheme will still be eligible under these new rules.

What are the deadline dates for this term?

Birthdays between 1st March 1990 and 30th September 1993 are eligible for payment from the start of August term. Applications received before 30th September 2009 will be paid from the start of term. Those received after this date will be paid from date of receipt.

Birthdays between 1 October 1993 and 28 February 1994 are eligible for payment from the start of the January term but are welcome to apply before this date. Applications received before 28 February 2010 will be paid from the start of that term. Those received after this date will be paid from the date of receipt.

No applications will be considered if received after 31 March 2010.



What happens if an application is incomplete?

All incomplete or unsupported applications will be returned to the applicant with a letter detailing what further information is required.

What if I am unable to provide all the information required?

A provisional award may be made if you or your parents/carers have been temporarily unable to supply details on which a final assessment can be made. This is dependant on the type of outstanding information and the reason for it being unavailable. Provisional awards are not available throughout the full EMA session.

Acceptance of a provisional award must be on the clear understanding that the award remains to be finalised. Finalisation of an award may result in any overpayment being reclaimed by the authority. Delay to the submission of this information will result in the award being suspended.

Can applications be made from more than one child in the family?

Yes, if they qualify under the eligibility criteria. If you have more than one child in full-time education a higher income threshold may apply - please check the income threshold document for details.

How is EMA paid?



Payments are made direct into a bank account in the student's name. If you don't have a bank account you will need to open one which accepts direct BACS payments. Falkirk

Council cannot pay to accounts which need a roll or reference number. Please check with your bank or building society if you're unsure.

Will I be paid for school holidays?

No, you will only be paid for attendance at school. In-service is not considered as a holiday for EMA purposes and payment can be still made for any such days, providing 100% attendance is met for the rest of that week.



Does my performance at school affect the EMA?

Yes, payment can be withheld without warning. If your attendance falls below 100% in any week, no payment will be made for that week unless all absence has been covered by a medical certificate or has been approved by education staff. A Self Certification form can be downloaded from the EMA page of the Falkirk Council website. Lateness can also affect payments, as can attainment and conduct - ie if conditions in the Learning Agreement are not met - including submission of homework. If you have a query about a missed payment please contact your school in the first instance.

What if my circumstances or personal details change?

An award may be re-assessed if your circumstances change eg through redundancy or separation etc. Please contact us for further information.

If you change home or email address or your bank account details, you must inform us in writing immediately. Failure to do so could result in a delayed or missing payment. A change of address or bank account form can be downloaded from the EMA page of the Falkirk Council website.

What period does the application cover?

If an award is made it will be for one school year and a new application will be needed for the following year.

Leaving School?

You will no longer receive weekly EMA payments but may still be eligible to receive a Bonus payment if you are considered under Scottish Government guidelines to have completed your course. Please contact us or your school if you need further information.



Moving to Further Education in College?

You may still be eligible to receive EMA but should not apply to Falkirk Council. Please contact the College direct for further information about EMA or other student financial support.

Moving onto Higher Education?

Other forms of financial support may be available for Higher Education at University or College.

Further information is available from the Student Awards Agency for Scotland if your usual home address is in Scotland. Student Finance Direct may also be of interest if you intend to study or have your usual home address in England.