

## Education – Housing and Childcare

### Housing

The type of housing you live in may well be a factor to consider when going into education. If you are living in local authority (council) housing, social housing or you are accommodated under the RAS scheme then there are few issues to consider. If you are eligible for and receive the Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) then you may need to find out if the additional income is counted as income for your rent.

If you are a tenant in social housing then you may then remain on your existing payment, such as the One-Parent Family Payment or Jobseeker's Allowance transitional and also be able to apply for the SUSI Grant, including the maintenance part as well as the fees grant.

If you live in private rented accommodation and you are in receipt of Rent Supplement then this will determine the type of social welfare payment you may receive whilst in full time education. As a full time student, in order to continue receiving Rent Supplement, you will have to apply for the Back to Education Allowance and therefore this will exclude you from being eligible for the SUSI maintenance grant. However, you may still be eligible for the fees grant, which may include tuition fees (if not under the Free Fees Scheme) and the student contribution fee.

You cannot be on the Back to Education Allowance and receive the SUSI maintenance grant.

### Childcare

Childcare is often a major cost when returning to education, be it pre-school childcare or after school care. Availability of low cost childcare for people returning to education is in many ways governed by the type of education course you pursue, as well as the type of childcare available in your area from local childcare providers.

If you are considering a full time undergraduate course then your option for lower cost child care is via the Childcare Subvention Scheme (CCS) – click [here](#) for more information.

If you have been allocated a VTOS place then you may be able to access a childcare place under the Childcare Education Training Scheme (CETS).