



EMA INFORMATION – SESSION 2017-2018

An EMA is a payment of £30 per week, paid directly into your bank account, if you stay on in school, college or in home-education after your official school leaving date. It is also payable to those on Activity Agreements.

If you were **born between 1 March 1998 and 28 February 2002** you may be eligible for an EMA.

For those born between 1 March 1998 and 30 September 2001 you may be eligible for an EMA from the beginning of the school term - **APPLY NOW**. If the application is received by 30 September it can be backdated to the beginning of term, otherwise the award can only be made from the week it is received in the office.

If you were born between 1 October 2001 and 28 February 2002 you may be eligible for an EMA from January 2018. Apply from October.

If you were in receipt of an EMA during school session 2016/2017 and are planning on staying on at school for session 2017/2018, a fresh application must be made (including submitting all the original documentation needed to complete the assessment).

If you are on an Activity Agreement you should apply for your EMA as soon as you start your Agreement. Payments will be backdated to the first date of engagement.

EMAs are normally assessed on gross taxable household income for the period April 2016 – March 2017 and the income thresholds for the academic year 2017/18 EMA programme are as follows:

£0 - £24,421 (for families with a single dependant child)

£0 - £26,884 (for families with more than one dependant child*)

*Dependant children are all those up to the age of 16 and those over 16 and up to 25 in full-time further or higher education

If you are an independent young person (ie receiving education while living in a foster home or children's home, and are in the care of the local authority or living independently in receipt of Income Support or Contribution-Based Employment Support and Allowance), you are eligible for a £30 EMA award without having to provide evidence of household income.

- To be paid an EMA you must have a bank account in your own name and attend an Aberdeen City area school.
- Students must be ordinarily resident in the UK. Generally this relates to the qualifying date and the 3 years immediately before.
- You must complete a Learning Agreement with the school.

Payment of your EMA

Payments are made fortnightly in arrears to your bank or building society account depending on your attendance and compliance with the requirements of your Learning Agreement.

No payments will be made until you have returned your completed, signed Learning Agreement to the school.

What if I don't have my own bank account?

EMA payments can normally only be made to the student so set up an account as soon as possible.

Could my attendance affect my EMA payments?

Yes, payments can be withheld if your attendance falls below 100%, unless your absences have been covered by a medical certificate or approved by your school. Lateness can also affect payments.

How long will the Award last?

The award will be for one academic year and a new application must be submitted each year.

Will an EMA affect my family or my own benefits?

An EMA is paid in addition to other support and benefits provided by the Government. This will not affect any other benefits you might receive. It will not affect any money you earn from a part-time job either.

What if I don't have all the required paperwork?

You can submit your form without the required documents in order for your application to be submitted before the deadline date, but any outstanding documents must be sent as soon as they are available.

Where do I get an application form?

Application forms are available from the school, Marischal College, Broad Street, Customer Access Points in Mastrick, Kincorth and Woodside or can be downloaded from the Council website www.aberdeencity.gov.uk

Who do I contact if I have any queries about EMA?

For further advice and information on how the EMA scheme will affect you personally, please contact your Guidance Teacher or contact Moyra Forbes, EMA Administrator, on (01224) 523898.

If you are planning to go to a Further Education College you should contact the college for details of their application process.

PLEASE NOTE: The Scottish Ministers reserve the right to review the EMA program at any time.