



Education Financial Support and Online ESOL classes – September 2021 update – First edition

1. Mainstream Student Funding Support:

Student Finance NI

We are responsible for processing applications for financial support for full-time higher education, part-time higher education and postgraduate courses.

We also administer and pay support on behalf of the Department of Health for students on Allied Health Professional courses at Ulster University and for 5th year Medical /Dental students at UK institutions.

If you normally live in Northern Ireland all the online services and advice you need including downloadable forms are available from the [StudentFinanceNI](https://www.studentfinance-ni.co.uk) website.

[Student Finance Northern Ireland \(studentfinancenl.co.uk\)](https://www.studentfinance-ni.co.uk)

Belfast Metropolitan College's Student Finance – Mainstream Funding information and opportunities

[Student Funding - Life at the Met - Belfast Met](#)

Student Funding provides advice and guidance to students on funding opportunities available in support of their studies. We aim to inform students about the range of financial assistance available, the relevant criteria and how these funds can be accessed.

Our Student Funding Service will be available to:

- Provide one-to-one advice and guidance sessions on student finance
- Advise with student finance applications
- Accept applications for the Learner Support fund and Care to Learn Scheme
- Answer queries about funds administered by the Student Funding Office

Please Note: During Covid-19 the Student Funding team is currently working remotely, the easiest way to currently contact us is by emailing studentfunding@belfastmet.ac.uk.

Links to Student Finance support at other FE Colleges in Northern Ireland:

SERC - [Further Education Grants - Student Finance - SERC](#)

NRC - [Student Finance: Applications - Study at NRC \(instructure.com\)](#)

NWRC - [Students Fees & Finance | North West Regional College \(nwrc.ac.uk\)](#)

SRC - [Financial Assistance \(src.ac.uk\)](#)

SWC - [Student Finance at South West College \(swc.ac.uk\)](#)

Queen's University Belfast - Scholarships and Funding

See which scholarships and funding options you may be entitled to and get practical budgeting advice and money saving tips.

[Scholarships and funding | Study | Queen's University Belfast \(qub.ac.uk\)](#)

University of Ulster – Student Finance Support - When you have decided to study at Ulster, you will need to apply to Student Finance for funding to cover your Tuition Fees and daily living costs. Check out our tips below to ensure you don't face any unnecessary delays. It is important to apply for your [Student Finance](#) as early as possible.

[Funding Queries - Student Guide \(ulster.ac.uk\)](#)

2. Alternative Funding Opportunities for ESOL, Further Education and Higher Education students (Northern Ireland)

- **The Leathersellers' Company Student Grants Scheme:** Grants of up to £5,000 per year for up to 4 years for students who are enrolled on a full-time degree course at a UK university. The scheme is open to students of any nationality who can show a commitment to the UK.

[Education - Student Grants - The Leathersellers' Company](#)

- **Hope for the Young:** Grants of up to £4,500 for refugees, asylum-seekers, and undocumented young people who have no access to government funds, or to those who are facing extreme financial hardship.

[Grants and Advocacy - Hope for the Young](#)

- **Fund for Human Need:** Emergency payments of up to £120, with priority given to those who are destitute or have no income or benefits.

[Fund for Human Need – Registered Charity No. 208866](#)

- **The Ruth Hayman Trust:** Grants of up to £1,000 to support the education and training of adults who have come to settle in the UK, and whose first language is not English and cannot afford the full fees for their studies.

[Our grants — Ruth Hayman Trust](#)

- **Family Action Educational Grants:** Grants of up to £300 for students over the age of 14 who are studying a course (including access and pre-access course) at a Further Education College affiliated to Family Action.

Check with the local College Student Finance staff team for further details and availability.

- **Trinity College London Language Access Fund:** Grants (up to £250 for individuals or £2,000 for groups) to help cover the costs of Trinity's language qualifications. Candidates must be nominated by their teacher or tutor, centre staff member or another appropriate person who is familiar with their background.

[Language Access Fund \(trinitycollege.co.uk\)](#)

- **The Price's Trust Development Fund (NI)** – Age 16-30? Get funding to train and learn.
The PT Development Awards can cover the cost of course fees, tools or equipment to help you achieve your goals.

[Get funding to train and learn | Help for young people | The Prince's Trust \(princes-trust.org.uk\)](#)

The Prince's Trust also has a list of other general grants and support available to young people via the link below:

[Grants and funding | Who else can help | The Prince's Trust \(princes-trust.org.uk\)](#)


- **Refuaid** - If you are applying to university and are struggling to finance your studies for either undergraduate or postgraduate study, please look at the link below and see if there are any scholarships or grants included you may be eligible to apply for.

[Grants & Scholarships for University— RefuAid](#)

3. ESOL Online Courses – Opportunities to students in Northern Ireland

The ESOL NI website offers you information translated into different languages and a searching tool on the English Language (ESOL) classes provision in Northern Ireland – follow the link below for further details:

[ESOL NI \(esolwebapp.azurewebsites.net\)](#)

If you are an ESOL provider and your information is not listed with our website yet, you can request to create a profile on the page by emailing lparizzi@belfastmet.ac.uk 


You will also find regular updates and news via the **ESOL NI social media pages**:

[ESOL NI | Facebook](#)

[ESOL NI \(@esol_ni\) / Twitter](#)

In case you are unable to access ESOL classes through FE Colleges or community providers or there are additional challenges in doing so, **try accessing free online classes (subject to availability)**.

Here are some potential options for **ONLINE English classes**.

You would need to contact the providers directly to register 

- **BURC (Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre) classes**

Contact: Claudia Belloni - Claudia.Belloni@burc.org

Alternative email – esol@burc.org – Telephone: 028 90961111

- **FutureLearn – online**

Here you will find links to online English language courses free of charge or including accreditation for a small fee. Courses are available catering for different level students and sector-specific; from elementary, advanced, and academic general English to English for the workplace and healthcare focused.

[Learn English Online for Free - Build Your English Skills - FutureLearn](#)

- **Refunet** - offers conversation or one-to one classes online with volunteers.

<https://www.refunet.co.uk>

- **Building Communities Resource Centre** (BCRC) they are online and free of charge to anyone – see **link below** for further information.

[Ethnic Minority Support – Building Communities Resource Centre \(theresourcecentre.org\)](http://theresourcecentre.org)

- **Maximpact Training** – Online ESOL classes – Please email carolinek@maximpact.com or helenl@maximpact.com for further details and availability.