Students

Claiming Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/benefits
This leaflet gives you information about claiming Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit if you are a student

Housing Benefit

Most full time students are not entitled to Housing Benefit. This exclusion applies throughout the duration of the course, including all vacations which fall within it.

However, you may be able to claim Housing Benefit if you fall into one of the categories below:

1. You are a student aged 60 or over;
2. You are a student (couple or lone parent) responsible for a child, foster child or young person;
3. You are a disabled student – disabled includes people receiving Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance, Invalidity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance and students who have been ill or incapable of work for more than 195 days or are receiving a Disabled Students’ Allowance because of deafness;
4. You are a student receiving Income Support or Jobseeker’s Allowance (income-based);
5. You are part of a couple and one of you is a full-time student – the non student partner can claim Housing Benefit and /or Council Tax Benefit on behalf of you both. The student partner cannot claim unless covered by one of the other categories;
6. You are a student under 21 in further education – Additionally, you must have started the course before reaching the age of 19. If you qualify under this category you will cease to be entitled to benefit as soon as you reach your 21st birthday.

In very general terms, further education is up to and including ‘A’ level and equivalent examinations. Higher education is anything which goes beyond this;
7. You are a part-time student – whether a course is to be treated as part time depends on the nature of the course and whether the educational establishment considers the course to be full or part-time;

8. You are a student and have temporarily interrupted your studies due to illness or to care for someone – you can claim Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit, but only for the period from the date you recovered from the illness or the date the caring responsibility ended until you return to the course, or the start of the next academic year, whichever is the earlier.

Please note, even if any of the categories 1-8 apply, Housing Benefit cannot be paid if the accommodation is rented from the college you are attending, unless the college itself rents the accommodation from the landlord on a temporary basis.
Council Tax Benefit

If you are a full-time student you will normally be exempt from Council Tax and excluded from claiming Council Tax Benefit, unless you are in one of the categories listed in 1 to 8.

However, full-time students can claim Second Adult Rebates in the same way as anyone else. The need may arise if you are the person named on the Council Tax bill but you are not exempt from paying Council Tax because someone who is not a student lives in the property. In order to claim a Second Adult Rebate, the person who is not a student must NOT be the student’s partner, a commercial lodger, or have a gross income of £228 or more per week.

Partners of students, who are not students themselves, may claim Council Tax Benefit on behalf of the couple in the normal way. Benefit will be paid according to your total income and needs, but can be up to 100% of the Council Tax bill.

Students from abroad

Students from abroad, who have limited leave, or no leave, to enter or remain in the UK, may not be able to claim Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit, even if they are in any of the listed categories (with the exception of category 5).
How to claim

Please telephone our new claims hotline on 01908 252770

An advisor will take your details, tell you all the things you need to provide and make arrangements for you to bring them in by appointment or send them in by post.
How to Contact us:

Write or call in at:

**Benefits Service**
Civic Offices
1 Saxon Gate East
Central Milton Keynes
MK9 3EJ

Tel: (01908) 253100
Fax (01908) 253025
Email: benefits@milton-keynes.gov.uk

We are open from 9.00 am to 5.15 pm, Monday to Friday.
Students Claiming HB and CTB