

An introduction to Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

* All information is based on academic year (AY) 2026/27 and may be subject to change in future years.

EMA

- What is EMA?
- Should I apply?
- How much can I get?
- How can I apply?
- What happens next?
- Key dates

- References relate to **“The little book of EMA’ for academic year 2026/27**

What is EMA?

- EMA is a weekly payment of £40 to help 16, 17 and 18 year olds with the costs of further education.
- Payments are made every 2 weeks as long as you meet your school or college's attendance criteria.

Should I apply ?

You could get EMA if all the following apply to you:

- you live in Wales
- you will be aged between 16–18 on 31 August 2026
- you meet our nationality and residency rules
- you attend an eligible school or college in the UK. This must be full time at school or college, for at least 12 hours per week, and studying an eligible course.
- your household income is £24,570 or less and you are the only young person studying full-time in your household
- or your household income is £27,273 or less and there are other young people in your household who qualify for Child Benefit

How much can I get?

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You could get £40 a week, depending on your household income. We'll ask for details of this income when you fill out the form.

Annual household income	Number of dependants in household (other than you)	Weekly EMA entitlement
£0 – £24,570	0	£40
£0 – £27,273	1+	£40
£24,571 and above	0	£0

If your household income is £27,274 or more you won't be eligible for EMA.

If my son/daughter gets EMA will it affect my benefits?

- EMA will not affect any benefits currently paid to your household

How can I apply?

- Check our website for all the latest updates about applying for EMA
www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/ema or scan this QR code



Apply now

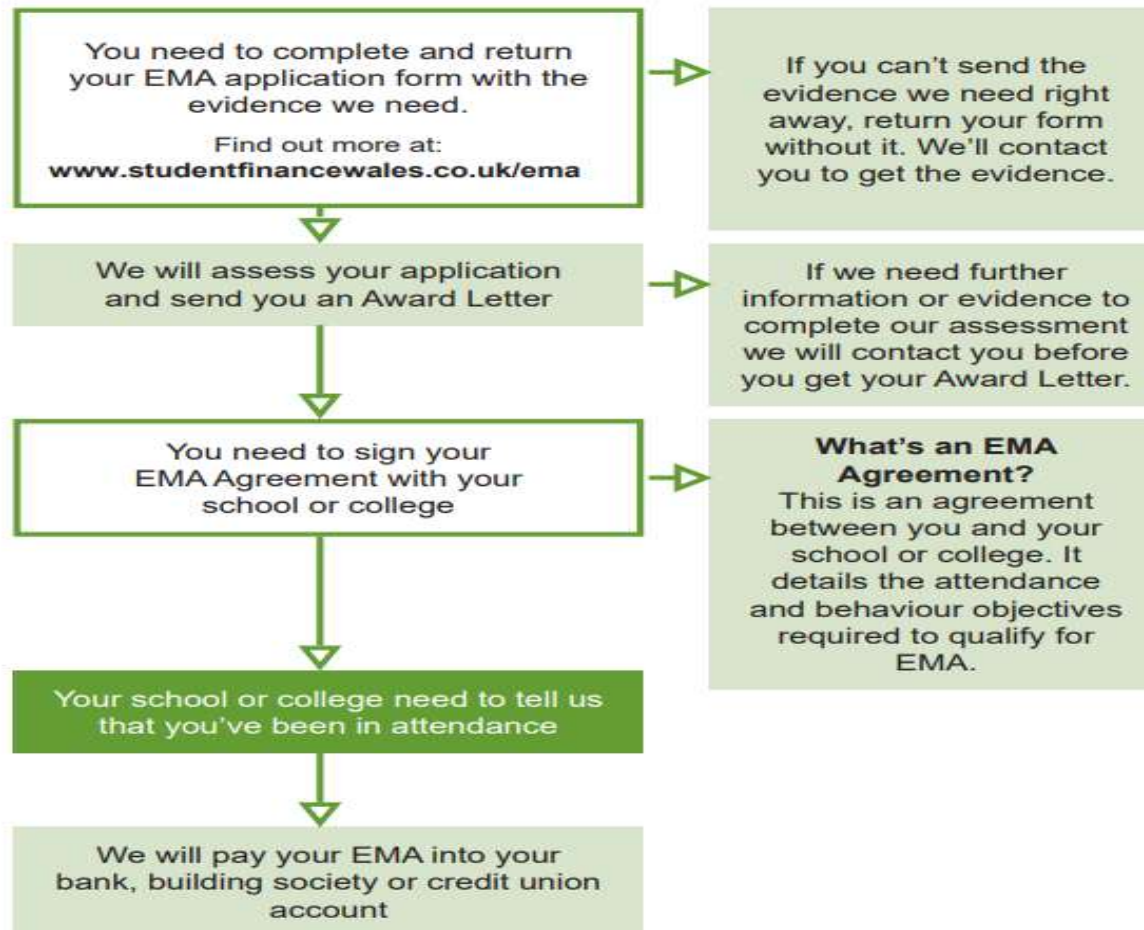
Scan the QR code to apply now! You can also apply
online at www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/ema



- You can apply before you get your GCSE results or before you've decided where you'll study.

What happens next?

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Key dates

- June 2026: make sure your EMA application is assessed and ready for the start of term send your completed form back to us, with all the appropriate evidence, by June 2026.
- 13 weeks after course start date: to be considered for backdated payments you must apply within 13 weeks of the start of your course.
- 31 August 2027: this is the final date that we can accept an application from you to be eligible for EMA in AY 2026/27. Once you've filled out the form and sent it to us, we will assess your application and write to you to let you know if you're entitled to EMA.