

20+ HELP WITH CHILDCARE COSTS – CHILDCARE BURSARY

We are committed to supporting students for them to overcome any financial barriers to learning.

You may be eligible for Childcare Bursary funding to assist with your childcare costs whilst you study at college.

You must be aged **20 years** or over on 31st August of the year your course starts, and your child/children must be aged **11 years of age or under**.

If you are aged **16-19 years** and a Parent/Main carer, please refer to the 16-19 Care to Learn help with Childcare Costs document as you may be eligible to apply for Care to Learn funding to assist with your childcare costs.

Your chosen childcare provider must be **Ofsted registered and have valid Public Liability Insurance**.

If your child is eligible for the **Government 15/30 hours of Free Childcare** you may also be eligible for Childcare Bursary funding, however the college will expect you to make use of the Government Free Childcare before we offer bursary funding.

TO BE ELIGIBLE YOU MUST:

- Be aged 20 or over on the first day of your course.
- Be fully enrolled with South Thames College Group on an eligible Government funded Further Education course (full or part time).
- Be the parent or main carer of the children that you are applying for.
- Be a UK National or have Leave to Remain with the right to live & work in the UK or be in receipt of NASS financial support.
- Be receiving, or be supported by someone receiving Universal Credits, or other qualifying means tested benefits or have an earned household income before tax and deductions, that does not exceed £32,000 per year.
- Be in receipt of an Advanced Learning loan if one is required to pay your course fees.
- Maintain at least 85% attendance per half term.



South Thames Colleges Group

HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?

Childcare Bursary amounts depend on the age of your child/children and your weekly timetabled study hours.

There is no limit to the number of your children aged 11 and under that you can apply for.

Maximum Childcare Bursary amounts as follows:

Child(ren) aged under 4 years on 31/08/2026.

<u>1 Child</u>	<u>2 or more children</u>	<u>Student weekly timetable hrs</u>
up to £3,400	up to £4,700	less than 4 hrs
up to £6,775	up to £10,000	4hrs up to 8hrs
up to £10,500	up to £15,000	8hrs plus

Child(ren) aged 4 to 11 years on 31/08/2026.

Out of School Care (e.g., Breakfast club/After School care/Wraparound care/Childminder)

1 Child	up to £2,200
2 Children	up to £3,500 total
3 or more Children	up to £4,000 total

Please note that Childcare Bursary amounts shown above and in the 'Help with Childcare Costs leaflet' are **maximum for the whole academic year**, amounts will be pro rata for applications received part way through the year.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR CHILDCARE BURSARY?

Once you have enrolled for your 2026/27 course at South Thames Colleges Group you must apply online once the Bursary application portal opens on the **19th of August 2026**

1. Find a suitable Childcare provider who must be OFSTED registered and hold valid Public Liability Insurance, have them complete the Childcare Bursary Fees Form, ensure that *their* bank details have been completed and that the childcare provider representative has signed the form. Please ensure that the amount on the form does not exceed the maximum amount that you are eligible for.
2. Visit The bursary application portal at: <https://stcg.paymystudent.com> and complete your application.

3. Upload proof of the children, your proof of income, residency status if required, Childcare Bursary Fees form and Childcare Providers Insurance Certificate as requested on the portal.
4. Ensure that you read and understand the Childcare Student Guidance Notes, applying for Childcare Bursary funding means that you agree to them. Hand the Childcare Provider Guidance Notes to your chosen childcare provider.
5. Sign and submit your application.
6. If there is sufficient funding available and you are eligible, you will receive an email confirming your Childcare Bursary funding with a copy to your provider.

Please note that if you take your child to the childcare provision prior to receiving a Childcare Bursary Confirmation email then you will be liable for fees incurred if your application is unsuccessful.

The college cannot recommend any Childcare providers, if you need help with this then please contact your local borough council who can assist you.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Childcare Bursary Team: childcare@stcg.ac.uk term time only

Student Support Carshalton Campus: ccstudent.support@stcg.ac.uk

Student Support Kingston Campus: student.support@kingston-college.ac.uk

Student Support Merton Campus: mcstudent.support@stcg.ac.uk

Student Support Tooting Campus: advice.wandsworth@south-thames.ac.uk

Student Support Wandsworth Campus: advice.wandsworth@south-thames.ac.uk

For further information please email childcare@stcg.ac.uk or see The Student Support Team at your Campus.