

DCU

Ollscoil Chathair
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City University

Mature Student Preparing Your Finances



There are two main sources available to mature students prior to registering in DCU.

SUSI (The [Student Universal Support Ireland](#)) is a fund which can pay your fees and/or provide a maintenance payment.

BTEA ([Back to Education Allowance](#)) is paid by the Department of Social Protection for those who have been in receipt of a payment in the previous year. You should contact your local office for more. It is recommended that all mature students in receipt of a social welfare payment also apply to SUSI to have their fees paid. If you receive the BTEA, you will not be eligible for a SUSI maintenance grant but your fees may be paid.

What costs will I have to consider each year?

Fees, which cost approximately €3,000 per year of study for EU citizens. Applicants should check their fee status prior to applying. You can do this on www.studentfinance.ie.

Accommodation is expensive in Dublin. Check out the DCU Student Union housing database, [StudentPad](#), for student listings local to DCU.

Transport costs can be expensive. Ideally, choose a university close to you, organise a carpool or commute by bicycle. The [Student Leap Card](#) can offer significant savings if you use public transport or some private services.

Books and equipment such as laptops can add up. The libraries or secondhand book sales are excellent ways to keep costs down. Did you know that DCU provide Microsoft Office to every student? So, when purchasing a

new laptop, it's not necessary to pay for the MS Office package.

Childcare costs are a major concern for mature students. See SAF, below, for information on a once-off payment that you may be eligible for to help with childcare costs. There is an [on campus creche](#) in Glasnevin.

Once I am registered in DCU, what can I do to help my finances?

Part-time work Many mature students find they can continue to work part time while they study. DCU recommends no more than 15 hours a week if possible.

SAF (The Student Assistance Fund) pays towards transport, childcare, books, rent, etc. Further information will be available once you are registered in DCU.

Information on DCU **scholarships** can be found [online](#). The **1916 Bursary** is a competitive award that mature students are eligible to apply for.

The Higher Education Authority's Student Finance website is a valuable source of information for mature & FE students preparing their finances and checking their eligibility for supports.

For Queries

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