

# EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA)



TRAIN TO GAIN FACTSHEET	
<b>Summary</b>	Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is a weekly allowance of up to £30 for 16 to 18 year olds in full time education.
<b>Location</b>	England. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own EMA schemes
<b>Timing</b>	EMA was launched in September 2004
<b>Why</b>	EMA removes the financial barrier that can prevent young people staying in education post 16
<b>How</b>	The weekly allowance is paid directly into the young persons bank/building society account.
<b>Key contact</b>	John Joyce – South West Region 14-19 Advisor at <a href="mailto:john.joyce@lsc.gov.uk">john.joyce@lsc.gov.uk</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.direct.gov.uk/ema">www.direct.gov.uk/ema</a>

## Key messages

EMA is a means tested weekly allowance for 16 – 18 year olds who are in full time further education.

Entitlement depends upon a means tested assessment of household income. Households in England with an annual income of £30,810 for the tax year 08/09 should be eligible for EMA, in the academic year starting in September 2009.

There are three levels of EMA £10, £20 and £30.

EMA is available for a wide range of courses including

- Full time FE courses at a college or school
- LSC funded e2e programme
- An LSC funded Diploma (where available) or a course that leads to an Apprenticeship

Payment of EMA is made on attendance, which is monitored by the learning provider.

Young people are still able to work part time as well as receive EMA. Their own income does not affect the amount of EMA that they will receive.

EMA will not affect any benefits that a family may be in receipt of.

Cash bonuses are also given dependant on how well the young person does on their course, and meets targets set by their learning provider.

EMA is not available to learners in Higher Education.