


Quick Reference Guides: Learner Support

Residential Support Scheme (RSS)	 <small>Residential allowances for students and learners</small>																	
What does it do?	The Residential Support Scheme provides financial support with accommodation costs for those learners, aged 16 and over, who need to study away from home because their course is not available locally.																	
Who is eligible?	<p>To be eligible learners must :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ be studying a course which is not available locally (within reasonable daily travel) ▪ be aged 16 or over ▪ have a household income of £30,993 or less ▪ be ordinarily resident in England ▪ be studying in England ▪ have term-time lodgings which are no further than 15 miles from the college campus. 																	
What type of learning is applicable?	A first full Level 2 or Level 3 Learner Responsive funded course (exceptionally the scheme may support study for a repeat Level 2 or Level 3 course, or a Level 1 course). The course must involve at least 15 hours attendance per week and be at least 10 weeks in duration.																	
How much could the learner receive?	<p>A maximum of £3,458 (£4,079 inside London). Applications are assessed on a household income basis according to the table below:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #800040; color: white;"> <th style="text-align: center;">Household Income for Tax Year 2009-10</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Support Available Outside London</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Support Available Inside London (the Learning Provider is in a London Borough)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Up to £21,000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£3,458</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£4, 079</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">£21,000 to £25,704</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£2,305</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£2,685</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">£25,705 to £30,993</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£1,152</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£1,355</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">£30,994 or over</td> <td style="text-align: center;">NIL</td> <td style="text-align: center;">NIL</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Household Income for Tax Year 2009-10	Support Available Outside London	Support Available Inside London (the Learning Provider is in a London Borough)	Up to £21,000	£3,458	£4, 079	£21,000 to £25,704	£2,305	£2,685	£25,705 to £30,993	£1,152	£1,355	£30,994 or over	NIL	NIL
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What can/can't the funding be used for?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Residential accommodation where term-time lodgings are within 15 miles of the learning provider 																	
How does the learner apply?	The learner should contact their learning provider to check that they participate in the scheme (47 specialist colleges do not participate). The learning provider may have a stock of application forms, or the learner can request one from the Learner Support Service on 0800 121 8989.																	
What are the effects on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Learners already holding a Level 2 qualification cannot get assistance for a further level 2 course but could qualify for assistance for a Level 3 																	

other sources of funding and benefits?	<p>course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ If the learner finds themselves in financial hardship they can apply for additional funding through their learning provider from discretionary Learner Support (dLS) ✓ Receipt of a Residential Support Scheme award will not exclude the learner from applying for any other support funding (e.g. dLS, Adult Learning Grant, Education Maintenance Allowance)
How are the funds administered?	<p>Payments are sent to learning providers at the beginning of each term, for the learning provider in turn to pay the landlord or agency directly (usually by cheque). Learning providers must retain proof of payment. If the learner has already paid the rent, learning providers may refund the learner's costs (not outside the period agreed in the award) but should again retain proof of payment.</p>
What is the aim?	<p>The Residential Support Scheme aims to enable access to provision with a focus on first full Level 2 and 3 courses. It is targeted at learners from a lower income background and is particularly advantageous for learners studying specialist provision and/or living in more remote areas.</p>
What are the key achievements of the funding?	<p>The Residential Support Scheme helped over 400 learners in 2008/09.</p>
Further Information and Contact Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information for Providers and Advisors (YPLA website) ▪ Information for Applicants;