

## Back to Education Allowance (BTEA)

You may be eligible for a Back to Education Allowance (BTEA) to return to second- or third-level education, if you have been receiving certain payments from the Department of Social Protection (see Who can apply? section below).

### What is the rate of payment?

If you are aged over 26, your weekly BTEA rate will be equal to your previous social protection payment (the payment that qualified you for participation in the scheme).

If you are aged under 26 and you were getting a reduced age-related Jobseeker's Allowance payment, you will get a personal maximum BTEA weekly rate of €203. Any income that you have will be deducted from this rate.

Since September 2017, you get an annual Cost of Education Allowance of €500 if you are getting BTEA and you have a dependent child.

### Who can apply?

In general, to qualify for the BTEA you must:

- Be aged between 18 and 21 and out of education for two years  
**OR**
- Be aged at least 21 (aged at least 24 for postgraduate study)
- Have been accepted onto a qualifying course
  
- Have been in receipt of one of the following social welfare payment for a specified minimum period of time:
  - Jobseeker's Allowance or Benefit
  - Jobseeker's Transitional Payment
  - Farm Assist
  - One-Parent Family Payment
  - Deserted Wife's Benefit or Allowance
  - Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partners Pension (contributory)
  - Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partners Pension (non-contributory)
  - Carer's Allowance
  - Blind Pension
  - Disability Allowance
  - Invalidity Pension
  - Incapacity Supplement
  - Illness Benefit (2 years or more)

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### How do I apply?

You must apply for BTEA before your course starts or within 30 days of your course starting.

Visit your local [Social Welfare office or Intreo Centre](#) to complete and submit the BTE1 application form.

Or

Visit the [Department of Social Protection](#) website to download the BTE1 form.

The information above is an overview of the Back to Education Allowance

For detailed information, applicants are advised to:

- Visit [Citizens Information](#) online
- Call Citizens Information on 0761 07 4000 – Monday to Friday from 9am to 8pm
- Visit your local [Citizens Information](#) office
- Call our Cancer Support Line on Freephone 1800 200 700 – Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm