

# Northumberland College Education Maintenance Allowance



## Learner Information 2010/2011

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) comes in weekly payments of £10, £20 or £30, which are paid directly into your bank account to help you with the cost of studying.

However, you will only get your money if you regularly attend college and work hard on your course.

### Are you eligible for EMA?

#### Your age

First of all you need to be 16, 17 or 18 and have left or be about to leave compulsory education.

#### Your course

You need to be enrolled on a course in England which is one of the following:

- A full time further education course at a college or school
- A Diploma funded by the Young People's Learning Agency (where available) or a course that leads to an Apprenticeship
- A Young People's Learning Agency-funded Foundation Learning Programme.

#### Your household income

To get EMA in the academic year starting September 2010, your annual household income must be below £30,810 (for tax year 2009-10). If you're eligible for EMA, the amount you receive is calculated by looking at your household income. It isn't affected by any money you earn from part time work, and won't make any difference to any benefits your parents get.

If you meet the age, course and income descriptions above then you are likely to be eligible for EMA.

Your household income (for financial year 2009-10)	How much EMA will you get?
up to £20,817 per year	£30 per week
£20,818 - £25,521 per year	£20 per week
£25,522 - £30,810 per year	£10 per week
more than £30,810 per year	No entitlement to EMA

### Four simple steps to getting EMA

1. Check whether you need to complete an application form this year
2. Request a form, fill it in and return it
3. Open a bank account, if you don't have one already
4. Take your 'Notice of Entitlement' with you when you enrol on your course.



**Northumberland College** Ashington Campus, College Road, Ashington, Northumberland NE63 9RG  
Tel: **01670 841200** Email: [advicecentre@northland.ac.uk](mailto:advicecentre@northland.ac.uk) Web: [www.northumberland.ac.uk](http://www.northumberland.ac.uk)

\*Information is correct at time of going to press and may be eligible to change without notice.

# Northumberland College Education Maintenance Allowance



## Learner Information 2010/2011

### Who needs to complete an application form for 2010/11?

You'll need to fill in a 2010/11 application form if:

- You haven't applied for EMA before - or you weren't entitled to it in 2009/10, but think you might be now
- You got EMA for 2009/10, but you think you may be entitled to a higher level of support this year because your household income circumstances have changed
- You got EMA for 2009/10 because you were doing an Entry to Employment (e2e) programme.

### Who doesn't need to complete an application form for 2010/11?

The 'EMA guarantee' means you automatically get EMA payments at the same rate for up to three years, even if your household income goes up. This applies up to the year in which you reach the age of 19.

So, if you got EMA last year, you weren't doing an e2e programme and your circumstances haven't changed, you don't need to complete a form for 2010/11. Just enrol at college for 2010/11, and you'll continue to get your EMA payments.

### Does EMA affect other benefits?

No, EMA does not affect any other household benefits. So your parents and carers are still free to keep claiming child benefit, tax credits and so on.

If you have children, you may be able to apply for Care to Learn as well as EMA meaning you could get extra help with childcare costs.

### How to apply?

Application forms are available from the Info Zone. You can also request an application form by visiting [www.direct.gov.uk/ema](http://www.direct.gov.uk/ema) or calling **0800 121 8989**.

### What happens next?

If you are eligible for EMA, you'll be sent a Notice of Entitlement (NOE) confirming how much you'll get per week. It's important to keep your NOE safe as you won't be able to claim EMA without it.

Take your NOE with you when you enrol on your course or learning programme.

Your school, college or learning provider will also ask you to sign a learning agreement, setting out what is expected of you in terms of attendance, behaviour, coursework and progress.

### Need to talk to someone?

If you're not sure whether you're eligible or whether you need to fill in the form call the Learner Support helpline on **0800 121 8989**.

