LEARN AROUND LIFE

PROMOTING THE RISE, TAF AND NEW FWDF FUNDS



LEP Partner Toolkit

LEARN AROUND LIFE

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

Colleges Scotland

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01

WHAT'S ON OFFER

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This year, the Scottish Government has made £22 million available to help parents and carers on lower incomes access free, part-time college courses.

To be eligible, they need to have an individual income under £33k a year, including any benefits they receive.

This funding is part of the Government's efforts to tackle child poverty, helping families build new skills and work towards a more secure income over time.

There are three funds, designed to meet different needs:

- The **RISE** fund supports parents and carers not currently in employment to build new skills.
- The **TAF** and **New FWDF** funds support parents and carers who are in employment to develop their skills and progress within their existing careers.



THE FUNDING DOESN'T JUST COVER THE COST OF THE COURSE ITSELF.

There is potential support with childcare and transport too. Colleges will signpost learners who are eligible to LEPs, DWP or other providers.

The colleges will also help parents understand their personal circumstances and ensure that taking a course won't affect their benefits or income.

Many of the families this funding is intended to support don't know it exists, and those who could benefit most are often the hardest to reach. This campaign aims to change that by spreading the word and helping make that first step feel achievable.

Timings: *RISE and TAF funds close in July 2027, and New FWDF in December 2027. To give colleges time to deliver, we're aiming for enrolments to be complete by the end of May 2027.*



02

ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

PARENTS.

YOU'VE GOT THE SKILLS TO GET SOME NEW ONES.



You already tackle one of the toughest tasks around – so college is totally doable. And our **free, flexible courses** are designed to fit around your everyday life. We could even help with travel and childcare.

LEARN AROUND LIFE



ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

The ‘Learn Around Life’ campaign aims to break down some of the barriers that might stop parents taking part by reminding them they already do one of the hardest jobs around: raising children.

The campaign will run nationally across posters, leaflets, mail drops, paid social media and radio adverts. Local colleges will also promote the campaign in their communities, and we’re counting on partners like you to help spread the word among those who could benefit most.

At its heart, this campaign is about showing parents that learning doesn’t have to mean putting family life on hold. With free, part-time courses designed to fit around their busy lives, they can take a manageable first step towards building new skills.



03

YOUR ROLE – WHY WE NEED YOUR HELP

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As a LEP partner, your help is vital in reaching the families who could benefit from this opportunity.

We know that some of the families we're targeting are focused on simply getting through each day. Finding the time or headspace to think about doing a course – and everything involved in organising one – can feel like a lot. It might not be a priority right now.

There are also other barriers, including a lack of confidence, fear of standing out or feeling embarrassed. Some people might be worried about trying something new, or not succeeding.



BUT YOU ALREADY HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN HELPING THESE FAMILIES NAVIGATE EVERYDAY LIFE.

You're a trusted source of support and information, and your advice could make the difference between someone taking that first step or not. You're also well placed to recognise who could benefit from these funds and find the right moment to introduce the opportunity to them.

You can direct parents to the campaign website (linked via the QR code on all promotional materials), or contact your local college directly if you'd like to find out more. To get contact details for your local college, please visit:

collegesscotland.ac.uk/LearnAroundLife



04

HOW TO TALK ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY

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Parents don’t need to know the specifics of the funds or what they’re called. The college will help them find the right funding and work out which fund applies to them.

The important thing is helping them understand what the opportunity could mean for them.

We know that going to college might feel like a big step for some people, particularly if they’re unsure what to expect or how it will fit around family life. It’s important to show that it doesn’t have to be daunting or a major commitment. There are lots of different courses available, ranging from just a couple of days to several weeks, so parents can find something that works for them.

We shouldn’t promise that taking a course will transform their lives or get them into work. It’s simply an opportunity to build new skills and help them get onto more solid ground.



WHAT THEY SHOULD KNOW:

- **The courses are free.** There may also be help available with travel costs and childcare.
- **They won't have to work it all out themselves.** Someone at the college can help them find a suitable course and work out how it fits around their life, including any impact on benefits or income.
- **There's plenty of choice.** A wide range of courses are available to suit different interests, circumstances and goals.
- **Taking part won't affect their benefits entitlement.**
- **Learning can fit around family life.** Courses offer flexible options, with some available outside college, including at home or in local community settings.
- **College isn't just for school leavers.** Lots of adults go to college to learn new skills or develop existing ones.
- **There's support with learning too.** Colleges are experienced in supporting people with dyslexia, dyscalculia and other additional learning needs.

WHAT YOU COULD SAY:

Did you know there are free college courses available for parents and carers? They're designed to fit around family life, and there may be help with things like childcare and travel costs too. You don't need to know exactly what you want to study – the college can talk you through the options and help you find something that works for you. It could be a good way to build some new skills, without having to make a big commitment.

05

FAQS

FAQS

Will it affect my Universal Credit?
No, participating in these courses should have no impact on your benefits. The college will work with you before you enrol to make sure you're maximising your income as much as possible.

How long will it take?
It depends on the course you choose. Some last a couple of days or a few weeks, while others may run for up to a year on a part-time basis, helping you fit learning around your life and you can study when you can.

Who'll watch my kids?
Courses are designed to make it easier to fit learning around looking after your children and work. Depending on the course, distance learning, community-based learning, and evening or weekend sessions may be available. You can also get support with childcare and travel if you need it. The college will help you find a way to make learning work around your life.

What if I can't finish, do I pay it back?
No, it will remain free of charge.

Does the £33,000 mean my salary or our household income?
£33,000 is based on your individual income, not household.

Who counts as a parent or carer?
You can get this support if you're a parent or carer of a child or young person under 18 years old who lives with you.

I'm self-employed, or my hours change every week. Can I still do it?
Yes! Many courses let you study in your own time or attend flexibly. Talk to the college about a plan that works for you.

I already have a degree or a qualification. Am I still eligible?
Previous college or university study doesn't affect your eligibility, it's about your income and the fact you are a parent.

I did a course before and didn't finish it. Can I still apply?
You can. These courses aim to help you find work or a better job and increase your household income. Talk to the college about your needs so they can help you choose the right course, complete it and improve your circumstances.

Will I need to pay anything upfront and claim it back?
No, this is funded by the Scottish Government, so there'll be nothing to pay upfront and there's no complicated claiming system. The colleges will sort out the funding, you just need to tell them you're interested, discuss your needs and attend.

Is the childcare help paid to me or straight to the provider? Can I use my own childminder or a family member?
The college can provide advice on how to access support for funded childcare and find the best solution for you.

Why is it free? What's the catch?
It's paid for by the Scottish Government to help parents get more learning and support. There's no catch, and nobody's selling you anything.

What happens if my child is ill, or I miss a few sessions?
Colleges are used to working with parents and will work with you to catch up.

What if I start and it isn't for me?
You can talk to the college about trying something else, or stopping.

Do I need a laptop or the internet?
It depends on the course, the colleges might be able to help you out with equipment. Most of them have laptops available for students to use.

What can I actually learn?
There's a range of courses and subjects to suit your goals, skills, experience and interests. Before speaking to the college, think about what you'd like to achieve—whether that's starting your own business, finding a part-time job, increasing your hours or moving into a better-paid role. The college can help you choose the right course.

What if my English isn't strong?
Colleges can support you with language skills, including if English is your second language or you have dyslexia. Many learners already get help with reading, writing and numeracy, so you won't be alone!

06

PROMOTIONAL ASSETS

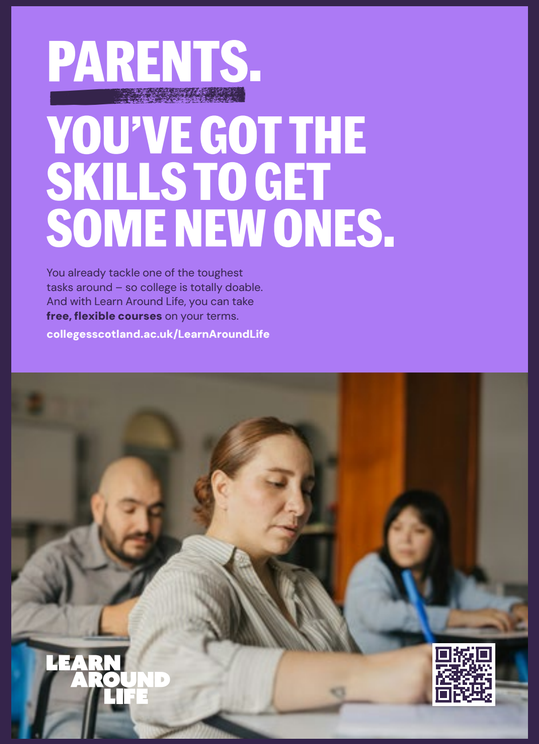
A5 LEAFLET

Your LEP will receive printed versions of this leaflet.

If you need to arrange the printing of more leaflets, you can access the print file below (please note this is setup for a **professional printer**)

Download A5 Leaflet

Front



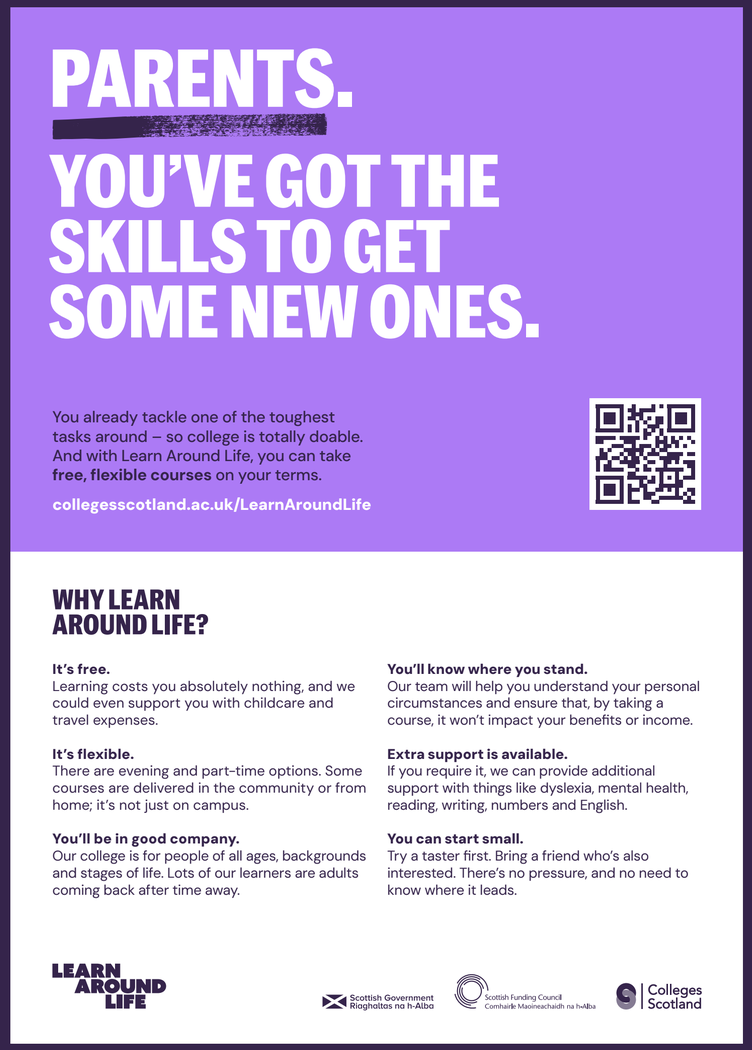
Back



A4 LEAFLET

Alternatively, if you need to print a leaflet on a **standard printer**, you can access a single-sided A4 leaflet below.

Download A4 Leaflet



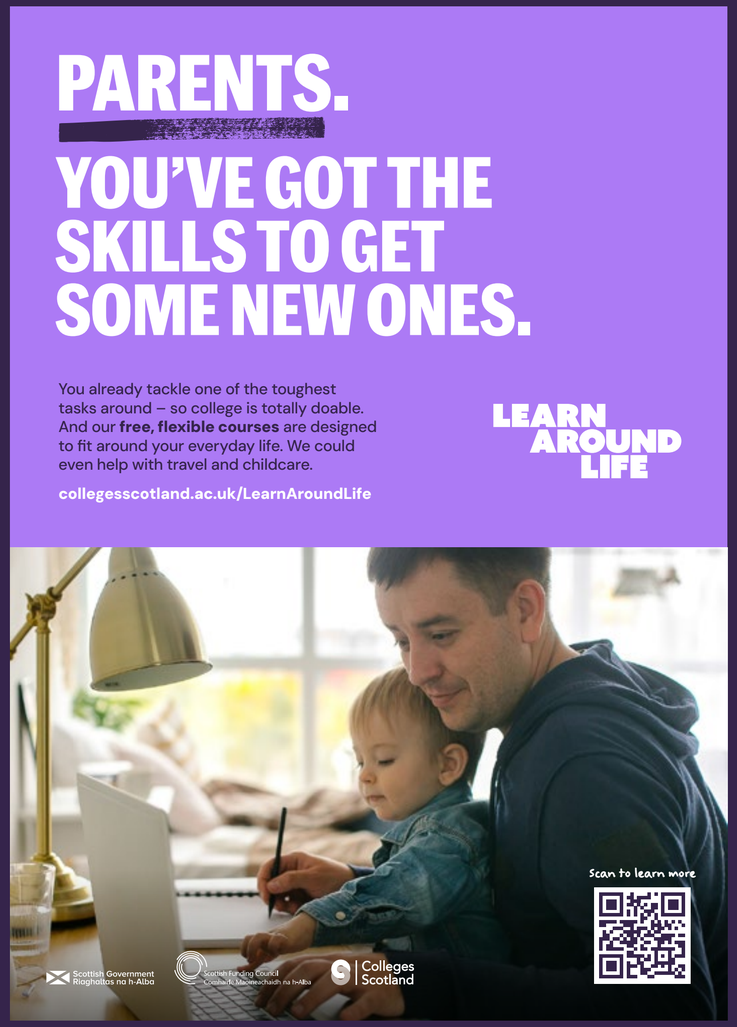
A3 POSTER

Your LEP will receive printed versions of this poster.

If you need to arrange the printing of more posters, you can access the print file below (please note this is setup for a **professional printer**).

There are multiple image options available.

Download A3 Poster



SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Please share this three image carousel post on your social media channels along with our suggested written post content.

Download Social Media Posts

If you would like a choice of different images or would like to add your logo, please access the Canva template below.

Social Media Canva Templates







Suggested written post content: As a parent, you already tackle one of the toughest tasks around – so college is totally doable. And with free, flexible courses, you can learn on your terms. You could even get help with travel and childcare. If you earn or receive benefits under £30,000, see how you could fit learning around your life: collegesscotland.ac.uk/LearnAroundLife #LearnAroundLife

PROMOTING VIA LOCAL CONTACTS

Here are suggested messages that you can use to reach out to any local organisations or networks who can help spread the word to eligible parents and carers.

For example:

- **employers** who can share the opportunity with their staff.
- **schools** who can share the opportunity with parents.
- **community groups** who can share the opportunity with their members.

Download suggested messages



Additional queries or support:

If you have any questions on the funds or require any support on promoting the funds, please contact: learnaroundlife@sfc.ac.uk

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