

Overseas Students

Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction – Notes for Overseas Students

You may qualify for Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction if you fall into an eligible category.

Eligible categories are listed [here](#).

If you do not fall into one of the categories you are ineligible to apply for Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction.

If you do fall into one of the eligible categories you may not be entitled to Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction if you have come to live and/or study in this country from overseas.

Please refer to the following notes and if you think you meet the conditions for overseas students **and** fall into one or more of the categories of eligible students then please apply for Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction.

1. Entitlement to Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction may be affected if:

a) Your nationality is not British: or

b) Your nationality is British but you do not have British Citizenship - that is, you are a British Dependent Territories citizen, a British Overseas citizen or otherwise a British subject without British citizenship.

2. Is there a time limit on your stay in the United Kingdom?

The stamp in your passport or documentation supplied by the UK Border Agency will show whether there is a time limit on your stay here. If there is not a time limit, there is nothing to prevent you applying for Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction. If there is a time limit, the immigration authorities may have attached other conditions to your stay which could affect your right to Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction.

3. Are you expected to be able to support yourself without recourse to public funds?

If you are here as student, one of the conditions of your being granted leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom is that you can support yourself and pay your accommodation costs without recourse to the public funds of this country. This condition also applies to most other people whose stay is subject to a time limit, though not to someone who has been admitted temporarily as a refugee or as the husband or wife of a British citizen or who has been granted political asylum.

A student from overseas must have comprehensive sickness insurance cover.

If you are not certain whether this condition applies to you, you should look at the immigration rules, which are available for Her Majesty's Stationery Office, or check with the immigration authorities.

4. How does this affect your right to Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction?

a) If the condition does not apply to you, you are entitled to apply for Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction.

b) If you have been granted leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom on the basis that you can maintain and accommodate yourself without recourse to public funds, the Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction Regulations state that you cannot get Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction unless you come from a European Community (EC) Country or European Economic Area Country (EEA) or one of the countries to which the European Convention on Social and Medical Assistance 1953 applies*. If you come from an EC, EEA or a Convention country, the Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction Regulations allow you to apply for Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Support but, if you do apply for it, it could affect your right to stay here.

* The Countries that are members of the EC, EEA or have signed the Convention are - Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, Macedonia, Turkey, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

5. What the Council needs to know

If you apply for Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction, the Council will need to check that you are entitled to do so. That is why you will be asked questions about your nationality and whether you are allowed to remain in the United Kingdom permanently.

If there is a time limit on your stay here and you are not from one of the EC, EEA or Convention countries, you must also tell the Council on what basis you were admitted to, or allowed to remain in, the United Kingdom.

You may be required to provide evidence in support of any information you give. If this is necessary the Council will write to you.

OVERSEAS STUDENT INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

In connection with your application for Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction, the Council will have to check:

a) That there is no time limit on your stay in the United Kingdom. Your passport should show that you have the right of abode in the United Kingdom or that you have leave to stay here indefinitely.

OR

b) That you have not been granted leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom on the basis that you can maintain and accommodate yourself without recourse to public funds. Your passport, or some other document provided by the immigration authorities, may confirm this, for example by showing that there is no restriction on your taking employment in this country.

AND

c) That you have comprehensive sickness insurance cover

If this is the case, you can help us to deal with your application by supplying your passport and any other relevant documents to the [City Centre Service Desk](#) or your [local Revenues and Benefits Centre](#) so that the Council can confirm the position. You should not send passports/bank books via post.

If your passport, or some other document, does not contain this information, the Council must ask you to obtain a letter from the immigration authorities confirming your status in this country and whether, when you were granted leave to stay here, you were required to be able to support yourself and pay your accommodation costs without recourse to public funds.

Where your application for Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction is unsuccessful, Glasgow City Council may use the information provided to assess your entitlement to Council Tax Exemption or Discount. Where this is the case we will notify you of this. For more information on Council Tax Exemption or Discount, see our [Student Exemption or Discount](#) page.

Please ensure that you complete the online form on that page and carefully read the requirements for supporting evidence - without which reduction cannot be considered.

If you have difficulty completing this form please contact the [City Centre Service Desk](#) or your [local Revenues and Benefits Centre](#).