

SDR 154/2008

30th September 2008

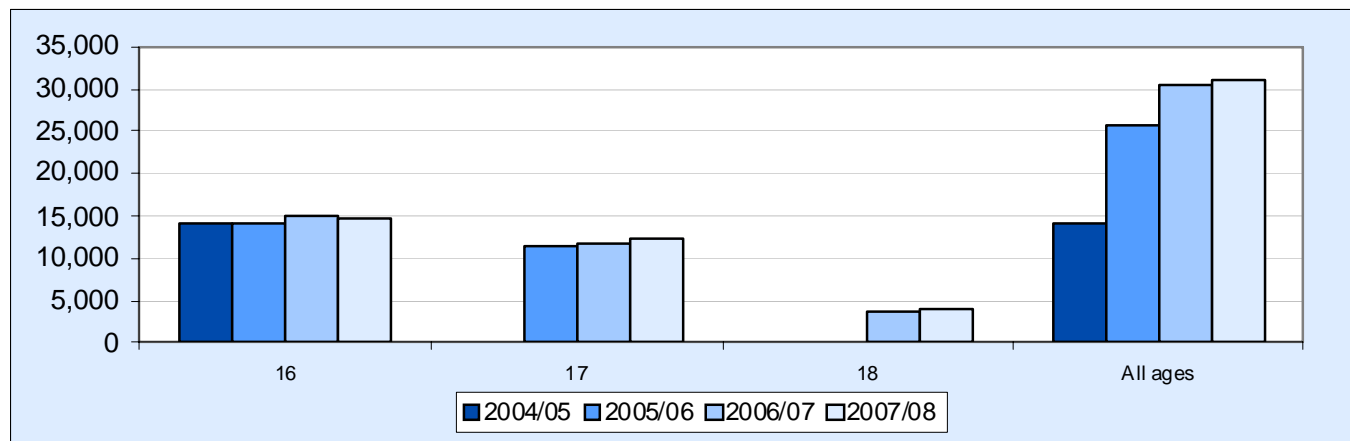
Student Finance: Education Maintenance Allowances Awarded in Wales, 2007/08

The Education Maintenance Allowance Wales scheme was introduced for 16 year olds in Further Education in 2004/05 and extended to include 17 year olds in 2005/06 and finally to include 18 year olds in 2006/07. The principal component of the EMA is a weekly allowance, linked to satisfactory attendance, paid fortnightly to eligible students attending learning centres in Wales. Students can qualify for awards of £10, £20 or £30 depending on household income and can also qualify for periodic additional bonuses of £100 if agreed learning objectives are met.

Summary

- By 1st September 2008, a total of 33,290 EMA Wales applications had been received for 2007/08, an increase of 2% compared with 2006/07 (*Table 1*).
- 31,180 (94 per cent) of applications received were approved, an increase of 3 per cent compared with 2006/07. 940 (3 per cent) of applications were rejected (*Table 1*).
- The number of approved applications from 16 year olds fell in 2007/08 whilst the number from 17 and 18 year olds both increased. Overall 48 per cent of approved applications were for 16 year olds compared with 50 per cent in 2006/07 (*Table 3*).
- 82 per cent of approved applications were from students with a household income of £20,810 or less and thus were entitled to the maximum EMA of £30 per week, the same as in 2006/07 (*Table 2*).
- Females accounted for 54 per cent of all applications and approved applications received (*Table 1*).
- Retention bonuses were paid in September 2007 to 12,020 students continuing their studies from 2006/07, an increase of 10% compared with the previous year (*Table 4*).

Chart 1: Approved applications by age (a) (b)



(a) 2004/05 figures are as at 26th August 2005, 2005/06 as at 25th August 2006, 2006/07 as at 31st August 2007 and 2007/08 as at 1st September 2008.

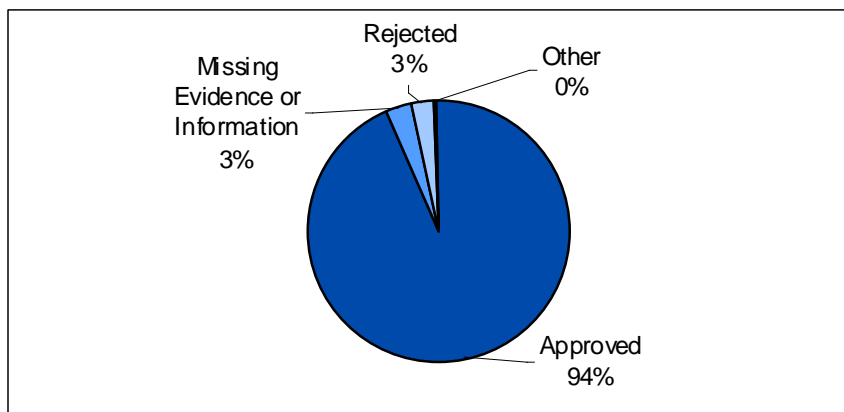
(b) The EMA was introduced to 16 year olds only in 2004/05. The scheme was extended to 17 year olds in 2005/06 and finally 18 year olds in 2006/07. 2007/08 data include a small number of 19 year olds who may be eligible due to exceptional circumstances.

Contact: Tel: 029 2082 3895 E-mail: he.stats@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Next Update: January 2009 (provisional)



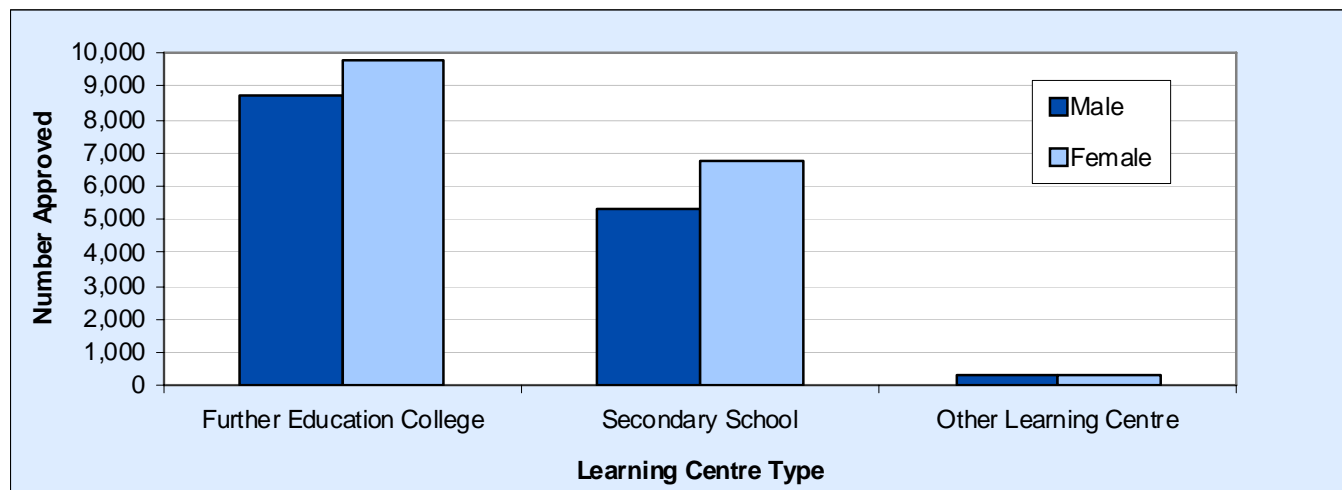
Chart 2: Total applications received by current work stage, 2007/08 (a)



(a) Current work stage denotes the status of the application at 1st September 2008 when data were extracted from SLC's database.

At 1st September 2008, when the data were extracted, 94 per cent of EMA applications received had been approved. Of the remaining applications received 3 per cent were incomplete (missing accompanying evidence or other information), and a further 3 per cent were rejected.

Chart 3: Approved applications by learning centre type and gender, 2007/08



Of the 31,180 approved applications, 29,730 (95 per cent) had received at least one payment. 16,790 (54 per cent) of approved applications were from female students. Females accounted for a higher proportion than males in both further education colleges and secondary schools. In other learning centres only 47 per cent of approved EMA applications were from females. However, only 610 approved applications were from students attending other learning centres.

18,460 students attending further education colleges had their applications approved. These accounted for 59 per cent of all approved applications.

82 per cent of approved applications were from students with a household income of £20,810 or less and were thus entitled to the maximum EMA of £30 per week. This overall proportion was the same for both males and females. 85 per cent of successful applications from females and 84 per cent from males at further education colleges were entitled to a maximum EMA; for secondary schools the figure was 78 per cent for both females and for males.

Chart 4: Approved applications by level of allowance and gender, 2007/08

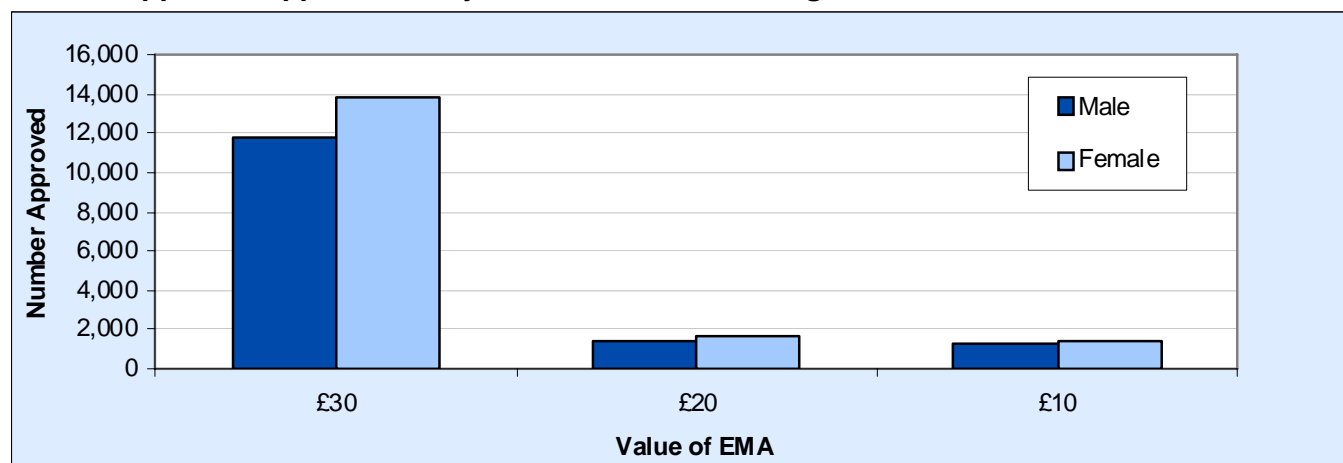


Table 1: Applications by current work stage and gender, 2007/08 (a)

Application current work stage	Male	Female	Total
Approved	14,400	16,790	31,180
<i>of which received at least one payment</i>	13,610	16,110	29,730
Missing Evidence	340	400	740
Missing Information	130	140	270
Rejected	430	510	940
Other	70	90	160
Total	15,360	17,930	33,290
<i>of which are renewals (b)</i>	6,740	8,100	14,830

Source: Student Loans Company

(a) As at 1st September 2008.

(b) Applicants who also applied for an allowance in previous academic year.

Table 2: Approved applications by learning centre type, gender and value of EMA award, 2007/08 (a)

	£30	£20	£10	Total
Further Education College:	15,630	1,620	1,220	18,460
Males	7,340	790	590	8,720
Females	8,290	830	630	9,740
Secondary School:	9,460	1,380	1,270	12,110
Males	4,180	590	570	5,350
Females	5,280	790	690	6,760
Other Learning Centre:	520	40	50	610
Males	280	20	30	330
Females	240	20	20	290
All Learning Centres:	25,610	3,040	2,530	31,180
Males	11,800	1,410	1,190	14,400
Females	13,810	1,630	1,340	16,790

Source: Student Loans Company

(a) As at 1st September 2008.

Table 3: Approved applications by age, gender and learning centre type (a)

	2006/07 (b)				2007/08 (c)			
	16	17	18	Total	16	17	18+	Total
Further Education College:	8,070	6,790	3,130	17,990	7,990	7,180	3,290	18,460
Males	3,970	3,160	1,440	8,560	3,820	3,380	1,520	8,720
Females	4,100	3,630	1,690	9,430	4,170	3,800	1,770	9,740
Secondary School:	6,860	4,740	300	11,890	6,620	5,110	390	12,110
Males	3,060	2,050	140	5,250	2,980	2,180	190	5,350
Females	3,800	2,680	160	6,640	3,640	2,920	200	6,760
Other Learning Centre:	180	200	120	490	240	200	170	610
Males	100	110	70	270	140	100	80	330
Females	80	90	50	220	100	100	90	290
All Learning Centres:	15,100	11,720	3,550	30,370	14,840	12,490	3,850	31,180
Males	7,120	5,310	1,650	14,090	6,940	5,670	1,790	14,400
Females	7,980	6,410	1,900	16,290	7,910	6,820	2,060	16,790

Source: Student Loans Company

(a) Age at start of academic year.

(b) As at 31st August 2007.

(c) As at 1st September 2008. Includes 19 year olds (see notes for explanation).

Table 4: Number of bonuses paid, by learning centre type and gender

Bonus payments of £100 are paid to students who are eligible for an EMA and make good progress against the objectives set out in their learning agreements in January and July of each academic year, with an additional bonus payment in September/October for those who have returned to learning for a second or subsequent year. The bonus payments are authorised by the learning centres and their purpose is to reward learning progression and provide additional incentives to students to continue their education to the best of their ability.

Academic year of study	2006/07 (a)			2007/08 (b)		
	Sept 2006	Jan 2007	Jul 2007	Sept 2007	Jan 2008	Jul 2008
Further Education College:	6,550	14,040	12,360	7,210	14,240	12,410
Males	2,910	6,600	5,780	3,250	6,610	5,750
Females	3,640	7,440	6,580	3,960	7,630	6,670
Secondary School:	4,190	9,530	8,660	4,530	9,760	8,910
Males	1,780	4,140	3,710	1,970	4,250	3,860
Females	2,410	5,390	4,960	2,560	5,510	5,050
Other Learning Centre:	220	420	280	280	550	410
Males	120	230	140	140	290	210
Females	100	190	130	140	270	210
All Learning Centres:	10,960	23,980	21,300	12,020	24,550	21,730
Males	4,810	10,960	9,630	5,360	11,150	9,810
Females	6,150	13,020	11,670	6,660	13,400	11,920

Source: Student Loans Company

(a) As at 31st August 2007.

(b) As at 1st September 2008.

Annex 1: Notes

Eligibility criteria, 2007/08

A student has a general entitlement to receive an EMA if:

- He/she is studying an eligible course at a recognised educational institution in Wales.
- His/her date of birth falls on or between 1st September 1988 and 31st August 1991.
- He/she is studying full-time at a school or studying at least 12 guided hours at a further education institution.
- He/she has a bank or building society current account.
- He/she meets the nationality/residency criteria.

A student aged 19 years old who presents a 4th year application, will be assessed against the following additional criteria:

- He/she has not received more than 2 years support in the previous 3 years.
- He/she applied for a 3rd year but withdrew before the 11th week of their course. This would be considered a "false start" and he/she could apply for a 4th year of support without any detrimental effect.

Evidence of household income in the prior tax year determines the level of the weekly allowance:

Household Income (per annum)	Entitlement Amount (per week)
£0 - £20,810	£30
£20,811 - £25,520	£20
£25,521 - £30,810	£10
£30,811 or above	Nil

Data collection

EMA applications and payments are administered by the Student Loans Company. The data in this release were collected by the SLC via their management information system and were extracted on 1st September 2008 and is based on applications received by the same date.

Rounding

Most figures in this release have been rounded to the nearest 10. Due to rounding the sums of some rows or columns may not add to the total figure given. Numbers less than 10 are represented by '*1'.

Revisions policy

These figures are subject to change as data are validated and applications are progressed. If figures are revised in future editions, where necessary the nature and scale of revisions will be disclosed.

Equal Opportunities

21,170 Equal Opportunities Monitoring forms were received in 2007/08, which equates to 64 per cent of applications received. It is not known whether these applications have been approved, rejected or are currently being processed since the data are disassociated from the application process.

The data as at 1st September 2008 show that of the applications for whom an equal opportunities form was completed:

- 4 per cent classed themselves as disabled;
- 98 per cent classed their ethnicity as white;
- 1 per cent made up each of the groups who were of mixed race, Asian or British Asian and 'Chinese or other ethnic origin;'
- Less than a half per cent said they were 'Black or Black British.'

Key Quality Information

Change in applicant circumstances

The data represented in this release refer to applicants' most recent learning agreement. Therefore if an applicant has attended more than one type of learning centre or has received different values of weekly payments, to avoid double-counting, they are only included under their most recent status.

Comparability

For the academic year 2004/05 only students aged 16 at the start of the academic year were eligible to receive an EMA. The scheme was extended to 17 year olds for the 2005/06 academic year and finally 18 year olds in 2006/07. Therefore the figures in table 3 are only comparable between all years for the number of approved applications for students aged 16 years old and between 2005/06 and 2006/07 only for 17 year olds. Figures for 2006/07 and 2007/08 are comparable with each other across all ages.

Data for 2007/08 includes approximately 100 students who are 19 years old and are eligible for EMA due to exceptional circumstances and providing that they have not received EMAs for more than two years (see eligibility criteria on previous page).

The data used for the cumulative number of EMA Wales applications as reported on the StatsWales website are taken from monthly SLC Management Reports which are not based on the same definitions used for this Statistical First Release, therefore the figures may differ slightly from these tables.

Coverage

Since the publication of the provisional January 07/08 First release, the number of approved applications increased by 910. Therefore the figures presented in the January release represented 97% of the final number of approved applications.

Further Information

Further EMA data at Local Education Authority level can be found on the [StatsWales website](#).

Monthly updates providing the number of EMA applications during 2008/09 can be found at the [Statistics for Wales](#) website.

Further information about the EMA scheme can be found at www.StudentFinanceWales.co.uk.

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.