



Digital Provision Scheme – Guidance Note 2023/24

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Introduction

The Digital Provision Scheme has been introduced by the Scottish Government and the Scottish Funding Council to help alleviate digital poverty, by providing students with the necessary digital equipment to engage in learning. The scheme will allow for students who are in most need to apply for equipment in order to support learning.

RGU has purchased a number of laptop devices, that are available for loaning to students that meet the eligibility criteria. RGU will own the purchased technology and you must return the equipment once your studies are completed.

This document aims to assist applicants in understanding the eligibility criteria and application process. If you require any support with your application, please contact Student Life via email: digitalprovision@rgu.ac.uk.

PLEASE ENSURE YOU READ THE FULL DOCUMENT CAREFULLY – APPLICATIONS WITHOUT CORRECT SUPPORTING EVIDENCE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Eligibility Criteria

You must be an enrolled student on a full or part-time degree course at RGU in order to apply for the Digital Provision Scheme.

In addition to the above mandatory eligibility criteria, the below sets out key criteria depending on your student status (Scottish Domiciled, RUK or International).

If you are registered as a **Home (Scottish Domiciled) student** and you meet the following criteria, you will automatically be eligible to apply to the scheme:

- Living in an SIMD10/SIMD20 postcode area
- Identified as a Care Experienced student
- Identified as being estranged from family
- If the applicant is in receipt of discretionary/hardship funding or if the applicant's current annual household income is below £34,000 or if they are in receipt of social benefits such as Universal Credit

If you are registered as a **Rest of UK (RUK) student**, and you meet the following criteria are also invited to apply:

- Identified as Statutory Care Leaver (NI, Wales, England)
- Identified as being estranged from family
- If the applicant is in receipt of discretionary/hardship funding or if the applicant's current annual household income is below £34,000 or if they are in receipt of social benefits such as Universal Credit

There are also a small number of devices available for International Students. If you are an **International student**, and meet the following criteria, you are also invited to apply:

- If the applicant is in receipt of discretionary funding from the International Students' Emergency Fund (detailing that the student has faced unexpected financial difficulties).
- If the applicant has been found to be experiencing a period of unexpected financial hardship (including if the applicant has unexpected personal or medical needs that are causing you financial difficulty). **You must be able to show that your financial circumstances have changed since you began your course.**

Along with the above qualifying criteria, there are also set out criteria which if applicants meet, will not qualify to the RGU Digital Provision Scheme, to avoid any possibility of double funding to students. The relevant criteria set out is as follows:

*Applicants will not be eligible to receive the full relevant allowance in this policy if you already receive and will continue to receive funding from a different source to provide access to online learning such as; through the **Connecting Scotland Initiative** (or classed as a disabled student who are in receipt of an allowance, such as the **Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)** or **Additional Support Needs (ASN)** funding, that covers the purchase of the necessary technology the students require to support their own additional support needs).*

PLEASE NOTE: APPLICATIONS WITHOUT CORRECT SUPPORTING EVIDENCE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Evidence Requirements – Home (Scottish Domicile) and Rest of UK (RUK)

Criteria	Evidence Accepted
Living in an SIMD10 postcode area	Home postcode – this will be checked via simd.scot
Living in an SIMD20 postcode area	
Identified as a Care Experienced student	Local authority letter, or letter from SASS (or equivalent funding body), detailing this.
Identified as Statutory Care Leaver	
Identified as being estranged from family	Written confirmation from you that you are estranged, endorsed by a professional person that knows your circumstances (and knows you in this professional capacity) such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> teacher, including nursery teachers; doctor; counsellor; college or university student advisor; nurse; lawyer/solicitor; police officer; family mediation worker; social worker; notary public; minister of religion
In receipt of discretionary / hardship funding	Award letter or letter of confirmation from funding provider.
Low income household (including in receipt of Young Student Bursary, or household income below £34,000).	Award letter from SASS (or equivalent funding body), detailing this.

Evidence Requirements – International Students

Criteria	Evidence Accepted
In receipt of International Students' Emergency Fund	Award letter or letter of confirmation from funding provider.
Unexpected Financial Hardship	Referral from Student Finance team OR A copy of the applicant's bank statements covering the last 2 months are required for ALL accounts held by you and your spouse/partner (both in the UK and in your home country) including Savings and ISA accounts. Screenshots are NOT acceptable. AND A supporting statement, written by the applicant, explaining: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What your plan was for funding your course, as well as what has changed. What other circumstances have changed since you began your course?