

# Children and study

You have the right to participate in study as a parent or carer of a child at the University of Sydney. The University provides various facilities to assist you with your childcare needs, such as [change and feeding rooms](#).

## Bringing children to Uni

Children are welcome on campus if they are under the supervision of an adult. Children will not be permitted to access spaces with potential hazards or that pose significant risk, such as laboratories. If you have to bring your child to class, make a request to your unit coordinator or teacher. Research students should consult your supervisor and fellow students if sharing a workspace.

## Breastfeeding on campus

In Australia it is your legal right to breastfeed, including in public. Under the federal [Sex Discrimination Act 1984](#), it is illegal in Australia to discriminate against a person either directly or indirectly for breastfeeding.

All University of Sydney campuses have parent rooms with [baby change facilities and feeding rooms](#). Many of these rooms are private and lockable. Some may require special access with a swipe card, which you can arrange by contacting the building administrator or precinct officer. Parent rooms are located in many buildings on all campuses.

**Facilities such as parent rooms and feeding rooms are provided for comfort and convenience, but this does not mean they are the only places you can breastfeed your child – it is legal to breastfeed in public in Australia.**

[The Australian Breastfeeding Association](#) provides practical breastfeeding support, chat support, and a 24-hour breastfeeding helpline.

# Connecting with other student parents

## SUPRA Student Carers' Network

If you care for an adult, have the responsibility of taking care of children, or are expecting a baby/babies, this network is designed to connect you with fellow students in similar situations.

The network aims to:

- offer a platform where students in similar situations can find each other
- hold events for student carers – including events specifically for students with kids
- gain insights into the needs of students with caregiving responsibilities.

[Find out more and sign up for the Student Carers' Network.](#)

## Usyd Student Parents and Carers Network

The Usyd Student Parents and Carers Network can help you connect with other students who have children. SUPRA is a partner in the network.

[Join the Facebook group](#) to share tips, experiences and learn about events for you and your family.

## Childcare

### Types of childcare

Childcare services in Sydney are expensive, and it can be competitive to get your child a place. Deciding on childcare may also depend on cost and the type of childcare provided. You can find out about different types of childcare on [Startingblocks](#), the government's childcare website. You can also find information on childcare close to you on StartingBlocks.

The University of Sydney [childcare resources list](#) also has useful information about services and University networks.

### Long daycare

Usually operates 7am – 6pm, through a daycare centre. Meals are often included. Cost is per day. Birth to school age. [Many domestic students, and some visa holders, may be eligible for substantial subsidies.](#)

## Family daycare

Hours vary and are negotiable, but they are usually similar to long daycare. It is run at a family home. Meals are often included. Cost is hourly. Birth to 12 years of age.

## Occasional care

For casual care only. Cost is hourly. Is usually run at a centre. Meals are usually provided. Birth to school age.

## Preschool

For children aged 3 to 5 years. Preschools have a structured education program. They usually operate 9am – 3pm. Meals may or may not be provided.

## Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) or Out-of-school hours (OOSH)

Runs before and after school. For school-aged children only, commonly run at their school. Meals are included. Hours are usually 7am – 9am for morning care and 3pm – 6pm for evening care, on school days.

## School holiday programs

These are usually themed programs for school aged children, e.g. sports programs. They typically cost \$100 – \$235 per day and can run over multiple days.

Sydney Uni Sport & Fitness (SUSF) have [school holiday programs](#).

# Childcare close to the University

There are several childcare services both on and close to University campuses, offering occasional care, long daycare, and family daycare. A [list of these services](#) is provided by the University. Some of these services offer discounts to Usyd students who have [USU memberships](#). Note that long waiting lists may apply.

# Having trouble managing it all?

If you have unexpected carer commitments that impact your ability to complete your assessments you may apply for simple extensions (assessments only), [special consideration or special arrangements](#) (assessments and exams). [Contact us](#) if you need assistance.

## Financial support for parents

The Australian Government offers different forms of financial support to parents including subsidising childcare, payments and tax benefits.

### Child Care Subsidy

The Australian government offers [Child Care Subsidy](#) (CCS) for eligible parents and guardians. Usually, you have to be an Australian resident or Australian citizen, although some visa holders may also be eligible. If you are eligible, the subsidy is paid directly to your childcare provider to reduce the fees you pay. You are required to pay the gap between the subsidy and the fees.

[Check your eligibility](#) for CCS payments, and [calculate your subsidy](#).

### Parenting Payment

The [Parenting Payment](#) is an income support payment for principal carers of young children. Eligibility requirements include being the principal carer; income and asset tests; and residence rules. [Find out if you're eligible](#) for the Parenting Payment.

### Family Tax Benefit

[Family Tax Benefit](#) (FTB) is a payment for carers of children that is split into 2 parts – Part A and Part B.

#### Part A

The Australian Government pays [Family Tax Benefit \(FTB\) Part A](#) per child. The amount paid depends on your family's circumstances. You must meet an income test and residence rules. [Find out about Part A income tests and eligibility](#).

#### Part B

[Family Tax Benefit \(FTB\) Part B](#) is a payment for parents or carers who earn less than \$100,900 per year. Additional parents or carer's income, and the age of the child, also affects the amount payable. [Find out about Part B income tests and eligibility](#).

[Contact us](#) if you need any help or support with accessing government payments.

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