



Apprentice Restrictions for UEL Student Services

As a general rule of thumb, all apprentices at the University of East London are eligible for all the same student support services as students not studying on apprenticeship courses. However, there are some exceptions where, due to restrictions outside of the University's control, apprentice students are not eligible to receive this same support. These exceptions are outlined below for your information.

Travel Cards

Restriction

Apprentices are not eligible for an 18+ Student Oyster photocard, distributed by Transport for London (TfL) (<https://tfl.gov.uk/fares/free-and-discounted-travel/18-plus-student-oyster-photocard>).

Our advice

As an apprentice, while you are not eligible for the 18+ Student Oyster photocard, you are eligible for the Apprentice Oyster photocard in the first year of your apprenticeship (<https://tfl.gov.uk/fares/free-and-discounted-travel/apprentice-oyster-photocard>).

If you meet the age criteria, you may also be eligible for the 16-25 Railcard (<https://www.16-25railcard.co.uk/>) or the 26-30 Railcard (<https://www.26-30railcard.co.uk/>) issued by National Rail. If not, you are still in scope for a general Network Railcard (<https://www.network-railcard.co.uk/>), also issued by National Rail.

Your attendance at University is a paid day of employment and therefore, when you are travelling to and from University, you are essentially commuting to and from work. If you are struggling with paying for the costs of your commute, this is something you should discuss with your employer. If you would like support in having these types of discussions with your employer around finance, we recommend speaking to the UEL Career Zone (<https://uelac.sharepoint.com/sites/careerzone>).

Council Tax Discounts

Restriction

Apprentices are not eligible for a full-time student council tax discount, issued by the UK government (<https://www.gov.uk/council-tax/discounts-for-full-time-students>).

Our advice

You can still explore if you are eligible for a reduction on your council tax (of up to 100%) if you are on a low income (<https://www.gov.uk/apply-council-tax-reduction>).

UEL Hardship Bursary

Restriction

Apprentices are not eligible for an University of East London Hardship Bursary (UELHB) as a requirement for eligibility is that the learner is already claiming the maximum maintenance loan from Student Finance England (<https://uelac.sharepoint.com/sites/studentssupport/SitePages/UEL-Hardship-Bursary.aspx>). As an apprentice, you are ineligible for student finance as your course is funded by your employer and therefore, you are also ineligible for the UELHB.

Our advice

As an apprentice, you are still able to access other UEL financial support offered by the Student Money Advice and Rights Team (or 'SMART') (<https://uelac.sharepoint.com/sites/studentssupport/SitePages/Money-Advice.aspx>).