Martha Hamilton Trust eligibility 2017/18

Who can apply?

People who are in receipt of DWP benefits or who are on a low income, and who live in Edinburgh, the Lothians, the Borders, Fife, the Falkirk district or Clackmannanshire.

Students may be eligible if they are in receipt of any of the following benefits:

- Severe disablement allowance or personal independent payment
- Disability living allowance
- Incapacity benefit
- Carer’s allowance
- Attendance allowance
- Contributory employment and support allowance

Additionally, students may be eligible if they or their family are in receipt of:

- Income support
- Housing benefit
- Income-based job seekers allowance
- Pension credit
- Income-related employment and support allowance

In exceptional cases, people whose individual circumstances mean that they cannot afford fees may also be eligible. These applications would need to be considered on a case-by-case basis by Centre for Open Learning staff.

Who does not qualify?

Full-time undergraduate and postgraduate students, and people in receipt of working tax credits or child tax credits, are not automatically eligible for Martha Hamilton funding. However, any individual can apply on an “exceptional circumstances” basis.

Amount of award

Half of course fee where there isn’t any kind of concessionary rate or half of the concessionary rate. (Note again: MH isn’t available to students who are receiving the student concessionary rate, unless they apply as an exceptional case. If they applied and
were successful, their award would be as above, i.e. half of course fee where there isn’t 
any kind of concessionary rate or half of the concessionary rate.)

Applicants can receive a subsidy for one course per session only.

Applicants cannot be awarded MH subsidies for a Languages for All, Art and Design Studies 
and Open Studies course in the same session/term. Awards are available for non-credit-
bearing courses only.

Completing enrolments

Students must apply for Martha Hamilton Trust funding and complete their course 
enrolments in person. Please remember to bring your Martha Hamilton application form, 
your enrolment form and your evidence of eligibility.

Evidence needed

We need to see and take a photocopy of benefit entitlement or low income, such as the 
relevant page from a benefit book, award letter, pay slip or bank statement.

Attendance

Recipients are expected to attend at least 70% of classes for their course. If they are 
unable to attend, they should inform the course tutor or the Centre for Open Learning 
before the class. Students with poor attendance may not receive funding for future 
courses.

Follow-on applications

Applicants must submit a new application each session, and provide evidence to show 
that they remain eligible for the Martha Hamilton Trust funding.

Limits to funding

The Trust has limited funds and each case is considered individually. We cannot guarantee 
to fund any individual student’s future study.