

Section 4.5: Young Parents

Who is this section for?

This section is for a person who has become a young parent while in post-primary education and who is currently in receipt of child benefit payment for the year 2025. The HEAR scheme recognises the impact having a child has on your own educational pathway. Please note, HEAR is for school leavers under the age of **23 as of January 1st 2026**.

Who does this section help?

This section identifies the applicant as a young parent and therefore a priority group for targeted supports on the HEAR scheme. Applicants who are eligible under this category can compete for HEAR reduced points places in participating HEIs. You can also avail of supports once you begin to attend higher education such as orientation, mentoring and additional resources.

Who else do I need to complete this section?

- A young parent needs to fill out Part 1 of a Young Parent Request for Information Form. A Department of Social Protection Official must complete Part 2 of this form. A copy of this form can be found on **www.accesscollege.ie/hear-supportingdocuments**. Keep a photocopy and proof of postage. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that this form is filled in correctly and submitted to CAO by Tuesday March 10th 2026.
- **Answer Section 4.5 and submit evidence of your parent/guardians' household income for 2024, meaning you still need to qualify for criteria 1 to be considered as a priority group for HEAR.**

Who should fill out this section?

Please note that this section is relevant only to the applicant and **not the parent(s)/guardian(s)** of the applicant who may themselves have been young parents.

Please answer the question below to indicate if you are a Young Parent.

Section 4.5: Young Parents

I became a parent while attending Post-Primary School and I was in receipt of Child Benefit during 2025.

By ticking this box in this section, you have identified yourself to the HEAR scheme as a Young Parent and therefore a priority group for targeted supports on the HEAR scheme.

Yes ☐ No ☐

The applicant must meet the low-income criteria (criteria 1) and Young Parent Verification process to be considered eligible for HEAR.

If this section does not apply to you, please continue to the next section of the handbook.

If you ticked this box you must supply the completed Young Parent Request for Information Form. A copy of this form can be found on www.accesscollege.ie/hear-supportingdocuments.