

Manual for Independent Students

Proving Your Status as an Independent Student for the First Time

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE STATUS OF INDEPENDENT STUDENT:

- You are not a married student.
- You do not cohabit legally with your partner (informal cohabitation is allowed).
- You do not have a common child with a partner you cohabit with legally or informally.

Condition 1:

You have had an income for at least 12 months in 2024 and 2025 (a total of 24 months). Verify this by creating an overview of your monthly income for 2024 and 2025 using your payslips or an overview of your living allowance or benefits. If you have an income as an employee or a student job, note your gross taxable income. This is the income after social security contributions (often referred to as 'taxable income'). For living allowances or benefits, note the amounts received as there are no social security deductions. Record the month in the left column and your income in the right column.

Examples:

If you have an income for 12 months Yes:
You can proceed to the next step.

No: You do not qualify as an independent student.
However, you can still apply as a 'dependent student'.

Month	2024 Income	2025 Income
JAN	290,59	0
FEB	1287,59	776,71
MAR	861,32	607,39
APR	0	0
MAY	290,59	0
JUN	969,45	0
JUL	1457,41	1354,3
AUG	1843,44	478,78
SEP	1461,31	1669,41
OCT	0	0
NOV	995,8	781,52
DEC	0	670, 12
Month	2024 Income	2025 income
JAN	290,59	0
FEB	1287,59	776,71

MRT	861,32	607,39
APR	0	0
MEI	0	0
JUN	0	0
JUL	1457,4 1	1354,3
AUG	1843,4 4	478,78
SEP	1461,3 1	1669,4 1
OKT	0	0
NOV	0	0
DEC	0	0

Condition 2:

Sum the income of the 12 months in which you earned the most. The total must be at least:

- €14 725,26 gross taxable income if you have an income from work (e.g., as an employee or student job).
- 10 307,68 euros if you receive a benefit.
- If your income is a combination of wages and benefits, make an appointment with a Stuvo staff member.

Voorbeelden

it meets the minimum amount: Proceed to the next step.

Sum of the 12 highest-earning months (in green)= € 12111,31.

It does not meet the minimum amount: You do not qualify as an independent student. However, you can still apply for a student grant as a dependent student.

	2024	2025
JAN	290,59	0
FEB	1287,59	976,71
MRT	961,32	607,39
APR	0	0
MAY	290,59	0
JUN	969,45	0
JUL	1457,41	1354,3
AUG	1843,44	578,78
SEP	1461,31	2200,41
OCT	0	0
NOV	995,8	781,52
DEC	0	670,12
	2024	2025
JAN	290,59	0
FEB	1287,59	976,71
MRT	861,32	607,39
APR	0	0
MAY	290,59	0
JUN	969,45	0
JUL	1457,41	134,3
AUG	1843,44	578,78
SEP	1461,31	200,41
OCT	0	0
NOV	995,8	781,52
DEC	0	170,12

SUMMARY:

- You worked for 12 months in 2024 and 2025: Yes
- You meet the minimum income requirement: Yes
- ⇒ Then you can apply for a student grant as an independent student. Note that you must meet both conditions to qualify for the status of independent student. This demonstrates your financial independence. A separate domicile address is not required and is not a prerequisite. You can be an independent student based on your income while still living with your parents. Your age does not affect your eligibility for a student grant.

Note!

There are additional conditions to qualify for a student grant from the Flemish government. Besides a minimum income, you must also consider a maximum income. Your study history also counts in determining eligibility for a student grant and most important you have to fulfill the nationality requirements: [Study grant of the Flemish Community - Centen voor studenten](#). The student grant service automatically checks these conditions when you submit an application.

Now that you have verified that you are an independent student, you need to prove this to the student grant service.

We differentiate between 3 profiles:

- You work or have worked in 2024 and/or 2025 and/or had a sickness benefit or an unemployment benefit ☐ Proceed to Profile 1.
- You receive a living allowance in 2024 and/or 2025 ☐ Proceed to Profile 2.
- Your income is a combination of a living allowance and wages in 2024 and/or 2025 ☐ Proceed to Profile 3.

PROFILE 1: STUDENT WITH INCOME (FROM WORK) OR A SICKNESS OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT

You worked in 2024 and/or 2025 and/or had a sickness of unemployment benefit.

What to submit:

- Your official **payslips** – bank statements do not count.
 - o Or an individual account for 2024 and 2025, which is an overview of your *monthly* earnings from an employer. If you have multiple employers, request an individual account from each. They are obligated to provide this.
- An overview of your monthly sickness benefits or unemployment benefit. A document from your payout institution
- **Documents** from the student grant service. You can find these documents in your file via studietoelagen.be.
 - o Form for estimated income 2024: add up your 2024 income and fill it in.
 - o Form for estimated income 2025: add up your 2025 income and fill it in.
 - o Form for income status overview: note your monthly income. You may add up your income per month. Fill this in with het **brutobelastbaar** inkomen (taxable income).

Bruto-belastbare inkomsten:	
• Wedden en lonen (ook uit studentenjobs) + loonfiches of attest werkgever	..... euro
• Vakantiegeld + attest werkgever/vakantiekas	..... euro
• Eindejaarstoelage, 13 ^e maand, achterstallen, ... + attest werkgever	..... euro
Belastbare bezoldigingen van bedrijfsleiders	..... euro
Nettoresultaten van winsten uit handels-, landbouw- of nijverheidsondernemingen	..... euro
Nettoresultaten van baten van vrije beroepen, ambten, posten of andere winstgevende bezigheden	..... euro
Vervangingsinkomens, ziekte- en invaliditeitsuitkeringen + attesten van de uitbetalingsinstelling (belastbaar bedrag - dit is vaak het brutobedrag)	..... euro
Werkloosheidsuitkeringen (met uitzondering van huurtoelagen)	..... euro

Maand	2024	2025
Januari	..... euro	..... euro
Februari	..... euro	..... euro
Maart	..... euro	..... euro
April	..... euro	..... euro
Mei	..... euro	..... euro
Juni	..... euro	..... euro
Juli	..... euro	..... euro
Augustus	..... euro	..... euro
September	..... euro	..... euro
Oktober	..... euro	..... euro
November	..... euro	..... euro
December	..... euro	..... euro

PROFILE 2: STUDENT WITH ONLY LIVING ALLOWANCE

If you received a living allowance exclusively in 2024-2025.

Note: It is possible to receive a living allowance and still not qualify as an independent student.

What to request:

- Nothing, as your living allowance is automatically requested by the student grant service. Do not add an overview of your living allowance to your student grant file, as this will delay the processing of your application.
- If you want to check your eligibility, you can request a certificate from the OCMW/CPAS detailing your monthly living allowance.

Note: This certificate is only useful for checking your eligibility. Do not add it to your file, as this will delay processing.

What to submit:

Documents from the student grant service. You can find these documents in your file via studietoelagen.be.

- Form for estimated income 2024: indicate if you received a living allowance in 2024.
- Form for estimated income 2025: indicate if you received a living allowance in 2025.

Ontvangen alimentatiegelden (voor de ouder én de kinderen) + kopie rekeninguittreksels	_____ euro	_____ euro
Door u betaalde alimentatiegelden (aan ex-partner en/of kinderen)	_____ euro	_____ euro
+ kopie rekeninguittreksels	_____ euro	_____ euro
Leefloon (betaald door het OCMW)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ja	<input type="checkbox"/> Ja
Inkomensvervangende tegemoetkoming mindervaliden (betaald door de FOD Sociale Zekerheid, Kruisdijlstraat 50, 1000 Brussel)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ja	<input type="checkbox"/> Ja
Andere inkomsten (bijvoorbeeld verzekeringspremie, ontslagvergoeding, ...) + bewijzen (belastbaar bedrag - dit is vaak het brutobedrag)	_____ euro	_____ euro
Kadastraal inkomen (niet-geïndexeerd bedrag, binnen- en buitenlandse inkomsten): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• van gebouwen of gronden die geheel of gedeeltelijk voor eigen beroep worden gebruikt• van gebouwen of gronden die niet geheel of	_____ euro	_____ euro

PROFILE 3: STUDENT WITH LIVING ALLOWANCE AND JOB INCOME

If you had a (student) job in addition to your living allowance.

What to submit:

- Your official payslips – bank statements do not count.
- Or an individual account of 2024 and 2025, which is an overview of your monthly earnings from an employer. If you have multiple employers, request an individual account from each. They are obligated to provide this.

Documents from the student grant service. You can find these documents in your file via studietoelagen.be.

- Form for estimated income 2024: add up your income of 2024 and fill it in.
- Form for estimated income 2025: add up your income of 2025 income and fill it in.

Ontvangen alimentatiegelden (voor de ouder én de kinderen) + kopie rekeninguittreksels	_____ euro	_____ euro
Door u betaalde alimentatiegelden (aan ex-partner en/of kinderen) + kopie rekeninguittreksels	_____ euro	_____ euro
Lohn (betaald door het OCMW)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ja	<input type="checkbox"/> Ja
Inkomsten van de tegemoetkoming mindervaliden (betaald door de FOD sociale zekerheid, kindertoeslag 50, 1000 Brussel)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ja	<input type="checkbox"/> Ja
Andere inkomsten (bijvoorbeeld verzekeringspremie, ontslagvergoeding, ...) + bewijzen (belastbaar bedrag - dit is vaak het brutobedrag)	_____ euro	_____ euro
Kadastraal inkomen (niet-geïndexeerd bedrag, binnen- en buitenlandse inkomsten): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• van gebouwen of gronden die geheel of gedeeltelijk voor eigen beroep worden gebruikt• van gebouwen of gronden die niet geheel of	_____ euro	_____ euro

	Ikzelf
Bruto-belastbare inkomsten: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wedden en lonen (ook uit studentenjobs) + loonfiches of attest werkgever• Vakantiegeld + attest werkgever/vakantiekas• Eindejaarstoelage, 13^e maand, achterstallen, ... + attest werkgever	_____ euro _____ euro _____ euro
Belastbare bezoldigingen van bedrijfsleiders	_____ euro
Nettoresultaten van winsten uit handels-, landbouw- of nijverheidsondernemingen	_____ euro
Nettoresultaten van baten van vrije beroepen, ambten, pensioenen of andere winstgevend bezigheden	_____ euro
Vervangingsinkomens, ziekte- en invaliditeitsuitkeringen + attesten van de uitbetalingsinstelling (belastbaar bedrag - dit is vaak het brutobedrag)	_____ euro
Werkloosheidsuitkeringen (met uitzondering van ...)	_____ euro

Enter only your taxable income from your payslip here.

Maand	2024	2025
Januari	_____ euro	_____ euro
Februari	_____ euro	_____ euro
Maart	_____ euro	_____ euro
April	_____ euro	_____ euro
Mei	_____ euro	_____ euro
Juni	_____ euro	_____ euro
Juli	_____ euro	_____ euro
Augustus	_____ euro	_____ euro
September	_____ euro	_____ euro
Oktober	_____ euro	_____ euro
November	_____ euro	_____ euro
December	_____ euro	_____ euro

Enter your income from living allowance and that from your wages (job income) here.

