

The Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund supports the training of employees who need it due to insufficient skills, their skills being outdated or health problems. Employees are persons of working age who work based on a contract of employment, contract for services, authorisation agreement or are in public service.

## DEGREE STUDY ALLOWANCE

We support you in obtaining vocational, professional higher or Bachelor's education in a state-commissioned study place. You are eligible for the allowance if you meet at least one of the following requirements:

- You do not have vocational or higher education as well as:
  - your basic or secondary education was completed or interrupted more than five years ago, or
  - your basic education was obtained in a non-stationary form (in an upper secondary school for adults), or
  - your secondary education was obtained in a non-stationary form (in an upper secondary school for adults) and basic education obtained at least eight years ago;
- You have vocational or higher education, but obtained it at least 15 years ago;
- Your state of health does not permit you to remain in your current position.

The Unemployment Insurance Fund cannot pay you the allowance if you are enrolled in an education institution at the time of submitting the application and more than 30 calendar days have passed since you started studying, nor if you suspended your studies during the year prior to submitting your application.

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The Unemployment Insurance Fund supports study programmes for professions that will be of growing importance in the coming years and already lack skilled workers.

The list of supported study programmes is available on the Unemployment Insurance Fund website at <https://www.tootukassa.ee/eng/content/work-and-study>

If you cannot remain in your current position due to health problems, we also support your studies in other programmes so you can choose an appropriate profession and job according to your health status.

## Steps to take to obtain allowance

- Visit a career counsellor at the Unemployment Insurance Fund. You can book a session via the self-service portal (e-töötukassa), over the phone or at an Unemployment Insurance Fund office.
- The counsellor will help you assess what kind of education and training will help you continue working, and together you will agree on an individual action plan.
- Submit the application for the allowance via the Unemployment Insurance Fund self-service portal (e-töötukassa), by e-mail, by post or at one of our offices.
- Apply to a vocational or higher education institution for a state-commissioned place.

The amount of the degree study allowance per month is 31-fold daily rate of unemployment benefit established by the state budget - in 2021, the amount of the allowance is 292 euros per month. The allowance is subject to income tax.

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## LABOUR MARKET TRAINING WITH A TRAINING CARD

We support obtaining necessary skills and knowledge for work via continuing education.

- If you do not have vocational or higher education or are over 50 years of age and your annual income in 2020 was less than 17 292 euros, you can participate in:
  - the training included in programmes of everyday computer use, web and database design and management, software and application development and analysis.
  - training that supports working in professions that will be of growing importance in the coming years and already lack skilled workers. The professions for which training is supported by the Unemployment Insurance Fund can be found on its website.
- If your Estonian language skills are insufficient for occupational development and your annual income in 2020 was less than 17 292 euros, you can take part in an Estonian training course to get at A1 level or in a course that prepares you for an Estonian language examination at A2-C1 level.
- If you work in oil shale mining company operating in Ida-Virumaa or in the company that belongs to same oil shale manufacturing group or machinery maintaining company of the same group, you can participate in all the above trainings.
- If you cannot continue in your current position due to your state of health, we support your participation in training that will help you remain employed.

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## Steps to take before training

- Visit a career counsellor at the Unemployment Insurance Fund. You can book a session via the self-service portal (e-töötukassa), over the phone or at an Unemployment Insurance Fund office.
- The counsellor will help you assess what kind of training will help you remain employed or find a new occupation, and together you will agree on a training plan.
- Choose the course(s) you agreed on with the counsellor from the list of in-service training programmes offered by the Unemployment Insurance Fund's training card partners.
- Sign up for a training programme.
- The training organiser will contact the Unemployment Insurance Fund and the fund will then ensure that the organiser is paid for the training.

One training course can last for a maximum of one year. The Unemployment Insurance Fund will compensate training costs to the value of 2500 euros over three years.

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## SUPPORT FOR OBTAINING QUALIFICATIONS

It is often necessary to prove your qualifications in order to get employed or continue working. We will compensate the costs related to obtaining a qualification (e.g. a vocational or competence certificate) to the value of up to 500 euros.

Costs will be compensated if at the time of submitting your application you are working based on a contract of employment, contract for services, authorisation agreement or in public service, undertook respective training with the support of the Unemployment Insurance Fund or you have completed the training, for which your employer has obtained a training grant from the Unemployment Insurance Fund or got compensation of training costs in the three years prior to taking the exam or obtaining the certificate.

Costs are compensated on the basis of an application, expense receipts and evidence of obtaining a qualification. The documents can be submitted via the Unemployment Insurance Fund self-service portal (e-töötukassa), by e-mail or mail or at one of its offices.



[www.tootukassa.ee](http://www.tootukassa.ee)

[www.facebook.com/eestitootukassa](https://www.facebook.com/eestitootukassa)

Information line 15501 (free of charge for landline calls)

Skype calls to information line: tootukassa

*Valid from 1st of January 2021*

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## WORK AND STUDY



 Eesti Töötukassa

