



# INTEREST FREE STATUS FOR PARENTAL LEAVE



A student who takes a break from full-time studies for parental leave may apply for interest free status on their Alberta Student Loan(s). The interest free status begins on the last day of attendance at school and lasts up to a maximum of 12 months from that date.



## Who is eligible?

You are eligible when you cease to be a full-time student in order to give birth to, care for or support a child who is a new addition to the family by reason of a Qualifying Event (see the chart on page 2), and you intend to return to full-time studies. The Qualifying Event must have happened within 12 months of when you ceased to be a full-time student.



## What is a “Qualifying Event”?

Qualifying Event	Definition	Copies of documents to attach to your application
Parent-to-be	You or your spouse/partner is expecting the birth of a baby.	Copy of the medical certificate confirming pregnancy and estimated date of birth.
Parent-by-birth	You or your spouse/partner has given birth and you are the biological mother or father of this baby.	Copy of one of the following: a) birth certificate (long version) b) Blue Cross form c) hospital form d) Canada Child Tax Benefit stub
Parent-by-adoption	You have been granted adoption of a child by the courts.	Copy of the adoption order issued by the courts.
Legal Guardian	You have been appointed legal guardian of a child.	Copy of the guardianship order issued by the courts or other proof of guardianship acceptable to the Minister.
Step Parent or Foster Parent	You have become a person standing in place of a parent.	Copy of the child's birth certificate and copy of one of the following (as applicable); a) your marriage certificate b) adult independent partnership agreement c) statutory declaration declaring your responsibility for the child d) other documentation acceptable to the Minister



## >> How do I apply?

---

- Print off a copy of the **Application for Interest Free Status for a person on Parental Leave**.
- Complete the application and follow the instructions on the application to submit to EDULINX and/or your other student loan lenders.

## >> For more information, contact:

---

EDULINX toll-free at 1-866-827-0310, Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. your local time, in North America, or

- **edulinx.ca**
- Outside North America toll-free at 800-2-529-9242, plus appropriate country code
- For the hearing impaired, toll-free TTY number at 1-866-587-1853

This only applies to your Alberta Student Loan(s). You will still be required to make payments on your Canada Student Loan(s) and any other loans issued by another province.

If you are having trouble making payments on your Canada Student Loan(s), contact the National Student Loans Service Centre and/or your lending institution about Repayment Assistance.

You can create a Repayment Assistance application online using NSLSC On-Line Services at **canlearn.ca**.