

Policy: 16 -19 Bursary Fund

Introduction

The 16-19 Bursary fund is designed to help support those young people who face the greatest barriers to continuing in education or training post 16. The fund has two elements: bursaries for vulnerable young persons (Vulnerable Bursary) and discretionary bursaries for young people facing financial barriers to participation (Discretionary Bursary).

Bursary funds are used to help pay for the costs related to participation in full-time education, such as the costs of transport, meals, books and equipment and trips.

The College will ensure compliance with the guidelines set out in the [16-19 Bursary Fund Guide: 2024 to 2025](#) (published 8 May 2024).

General Eligibility

Residential Eligibility

To be eligible for funding the student must have the legal right to be resident in the United Kingdom at the start of their study programme.

Age of Applicants

To be eligible students must be aged 16 - 18 on 31 August 2024 or 19+ if on the second year of a course they started when aged 16-18.

Status of Applicants

In determining the financial circumstances of applicants the incomes of a student's parents/carers are taken into account unless he/she should be treated as an independent student under the terms of the Education (Student Support) Regulations. Where a student satisfies the conditions for independent status, the income of a spouse or partner is taken into account in any means testing.

Vulnerable Bursary

The following nominated groups are eligible to receive a Vulnerable Bursary of up to £1,200 a year:

- students in care
- students who are care leavers
- students in receipt of Income Support or Universal Credit
- disabled students in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance (or Universal Credit) **and** Disability Living Allowance

Students will need to complete an application form and supply evidence of eligibility as appropriate before payments are made. Students who receive payment from this fund will not receive assistance from the Discretionary Bursary.

Discretionary Bursary

The level of support which the College can offer is dependent on the total funding received from the YPLA and the numbers of applications received. The level of support offered may vary during the academic year and is dependent on the amount of funds available

Students with household incomes of less than £30,000 a year are eligible for Discretionary Bursaries.

Students will need to complete an application form and supply evidence as appropriate before payments are made.

Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application and the assistance they might expect to receive during the college year whilst funds remain. There may be a liability to repay all or part of the payments in the event of supplying false information, withdrawal from College or not meeting the College's expectations on behaviour, performance and attendance.

Payments and Benefit Entitlement

Receipt of the 16-19 Bursary Fund does not affect entitlement to Department for Work and Pensions income-related benefits such as Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Child Benefit, Working Tax Credit and Housing Benefit. However, some other benefits are affected and it is the student's or carer's responsibility to notify the Benefits Agencies where payment may impact on benefit entitlement.

Contingency Fund

The College retains a contingency reserve for unforeseen late applications and changes in financial circumstances.

Bursary Publicity

The College will publicise the Bursary Fund through the College website and literature.

Appeals

Appeals against unsuccessful applications must be made to the Head of Sixth Form within 14 days of the letter of notification. It will be referred to The Leadership Team, whose decision is final.