

Financial Support for Students in 2017-18

16-19 Bursary Scheme of up to £1,000 over two years

At Carmel College we have a bursary scheme for full time students of all ages. The bursary scheme consists of a number of elements:

Targeted Bursary

A Targeted Bursary of up to £1,200 per year for young people in the following defined vulnerable groups: in care, care leavers, young people in receipt of income support or universal credit (in their own name) and disabled young people in receipt of **both** employment support allowance (or universal credit) and Disability Living Allowance (or personal independence payment). Funding for this group of young people will be held centrally and the College will draw down funds on behalf of eligible students. You can apply for this bursary using the same application form as the General Bursary.

General Bursary

The General Bursary is aimed at financially assisting young people in ways that best fit their needs and circumstances. Awards will be targeted towards those young people who face the greatest financial barriers to participation, such as the costs of transport, meals, books and equipment. For 2017-18 academic year the General Bursary award is £500 payable over 3 terms (ie term 1 £166, term 2 £167, term 3 £167).

Transport Bursary

Students eligible for the General Bursary **who live outside a 3 mile radius of College** may also receive a Transport Bursary if they have purchased a bus pass. This does not apply to students in receipt of the Targeted Bursary.

Free meals

To be eligible for a free meal in the academic year 2017-18 you must be aged between 16 and 18 on 31 August 2017. If you turn 19 during your year of study you will remain eligible for a free meal until the end of the academic year. Students who are aged 19 or over on 31 August 2017 and who meet the '19+ Students' criteria below may also be eligible to a free meal. Free meals are targeted at disadvantaged students. For the purposes of eligibility, disadvantaged is defined by the students being in receipt of, or having parents who are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits shown below (with the exception of Personal Independence Payment).

Eligibility

Full time students **aged under 19 at the start of the academic year** who satisfy the residency criteria in the EFA Funding Guidance 2017-18 and meet the following household income based criteria may apply for the General Bursary:

You or your parents are in receipt of:-

- Income support
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment Support Allowance (ESA)
- Personal Independence Payment
- The guarantee element of state pension credit
- Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190 as assessed by HMRC*
- Universal credit (replacing Income support, income-based job seekers allowance, income-related employment and support allowance and child tax credits)
- Working Tax Credit run on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

***For 2017-18 the College discretionary annual household income threshold should not exceed £25,000 to be eligible for the General Bursary. To be eligible for free meals the government threshold for entitlement remains at £16,190.**

19+ Students

Full time students aged 19 and over who satisfy the residency criteria in the EFA Funding Guidance 2017-18 and meet the following criteria may apply for the General Bursary:

- Student is continuing on a study programme they began aged 16 to 18 ('19+ continuers')
- Student has an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Other students aged 19 and over may be able to access Discretionary Learner Support provided by the Skills Funding Agency.

Other help

- Extra financial support may be available in extenuating circumstances
- Help with childcare payments - If you have a child you can apply for Care to Learn funding via the Student Bursary Support Services (SBSS) on-line portal. The on-line portal is accessible via most web-enabled devices (PC, laptop or tablet). Alternatively, if you do not have access to the internet you can contact the Student Bursary Support Service on helpline 0800 121 8989.

Assessment and payment of bursaries

Receipt of a Targeted Bursary or a General Bursary is conditional on the student meeting agreed standards set by the College, including targets relating to attendance and/or standards of behaviour.

Administration and distribution of awards

Applications and guidance for 2017-18 are available for download from the College website under the tab 'How we support you' then 'Financial Support'. A Bursary Panel will assess your application and you will be notified of the decision within 10 working days of receipt of the form. The Targeted Bursary will be payable over 10 monthly payments subject to students meeting their targets. The General Bursary will be payable termly subject to students meeting their targets. All payments will be made directly into student bank accounts via BACs payment. General Bursary payments may vary depending upon individual financial circumstances. Assistance with the cost of student transport will be a priority.

Equal Opportunities

The College will not discriminate against students on the basis of protected characteristics as defined in equalities legislation, section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010.

Appeals

Students will have the right of appeal against Bursary Panel decisions via the College appeals process.