



16 – 19 Bursary Fund Policy

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to help students overcome specific financial barriers to participation they face so they can remain in education.

The college offer 2 types of 16 to 19 bursaries:

- Targeted bursaries for defined vulnerable groups
- Discretionary bursaries which the college award based on the following criteria

Targeted Bursaries

Targeted bursaries are available to those students in defined vulnerable groups, including students in care, care leavers, students in receipt of Income Support or Universal Credit in their own name. Disabled students in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance (or Universal Credit) AND Disability Living Allowance (or Personal Independence Payments).

Funds are drawn down from SBSS where the financial need is identified. The maximum amount of financial support from the SBSS is £1,200 per annum. The college supplement this where necessary by a further £200 from discretionary funds.

Students 19 or over are NOT eligible for the target/vulnerable bursary.

Discretionary Bursaries

There are 3 elements to the discretionary bursary award. The college promote and award discretionary bursaries based on the following criteria:

- Students must be 16 or over but under 19 on 31 August
- Students aged 19 or over ONLY if they are continuing on the same programme of study they started aged 16 to 18 (19+ continuers) or have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan
- Students must be on a full-time course of study
- Student or parents in receipt of:
 1. Income Support
 2. Income based job seekers allowance
 3. Income related Employment Support Allowance (ESA)
 4. Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
 5. The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
 6. Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 7. Child Tax Credit
 8. Working Tax Credit
 9. Universal Credit

General Award

General bursaries are awarded to financially assist students with the cost of books, equipment, course relevant trips and visits and other essential college related costs to enable them to remain in education and complete their course.

Payments are tiered based on the assessment of household income:

23-24 Band	23-24 Threshold	23-24 Annual entitlement	Amount (issued in 6 half-termly payments)
	£	£	£
A	17,850	1050	175
B	17,851 - 26,250	786	131
C	26,251 - 31,500	528	88

Transport Award

Students meeting the eligibility criteria and using public transport or college contracted services and living outside a 2-mile radius of college, will qualify for a public bus pass (Merseytravel or Arriva) and/or the cost of a college contracted service. This is paid to the 3rd party provider in all cases and is valued on average at £400 per annum depending on which service is required.

Free Meal Award

Free Meals are awarded to disadvantaged students meeting the eligibility criteria:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- 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 Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC))
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after someone stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit (UC) with **net earnings not exceeding the equivalent of £7,400** for each year (after tax and not including any benefits they get)

Students must also satisfy the 3-year residency criteria set out in the Government funding regulations guidance.

Government funding is based on a meal valued at £2.53 per day. The college choose to increase this and meet the difference to the value of £3.50 from discretionary funds.

Administrative contribution

The college apply 5% of the total bursary fund allocation on an annual basis to support administrative costs.

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