

## **BURSARY INFORMATION - Financing Your Study - Students Aged under 19**

### **Don't let finance worries stop you from applying!**

Don't be put off applying because you are worried about how you are going to cover Travelling costs – We can help you access different types of financial help.

### **Students under 19 from low-income families can apply to the Discretionary Learner Support Fund for help with Travel Costs**

Don't worry and don't let it stop you from applying as there is a 'Discretionary Learner Support Fund' which you can apply for which is designed to help 16, 17 and 18 year old students who struggle with the costs of full-time education or training.

Students aged 19 or over are only eligible to receive a discretionary bursary if they:

- are continuing on a study programme they began aged 16 to 18 ('19+ continuers') or
- have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

These 2 groups of students can receive a discretionary bursary while they continue to attend education (in the case of a 19+ continuer, this must be the same programme they started before they turned 19), as long as their eligibility continues and their institution considers they need the additional support to continue their participation. Students aged 19 or over are not eligible for the vulnerable student bursary.

### **To be eligible for the vulnerable bursary, students must be under 19 and in one of the defined vulnerable groups;**

- in care
- care leavers
- receiving Income Support, or Universal Credit because they are financially supporting themselves or financially supporting themselves and someone who is dependent on them and living with them such as a child or partner
- receiving Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments in their own right as well as Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit in their own right

**GOV.UK information links;** <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/16-to-19-education-financial-support-for-students>

### **To be eligible for the Free School Meals**

Free meals are targeted at disadvantaged students. Free meals in further education defines disadvantage as students being in receipt of, or having parents who are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- 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 with net earnings not exceeding the equivalent of £7,400 pa (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

A student is only eligible to receive a free meal when they, or a responsible adult on their behalf, have made a successful application to the institution where they are enrolled.

Feedback from institutions has indicated that there is some confusion about Working Tax Credit and whether children from families in receipt of it are eligible for free meals. A parent or student must be in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits set out above to be eligible. Working Tax Credit is not a qualifying benefit for free meals, and a parent or student in receipt of Working Tax Credits is not entitled to a free meal.

Qualifying benefits do include the Working Tax Credit run on which is paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

From 1 April 2018, any student who is in receipt of, or has parents who are in receipt of, Universal Credit must have a net earned annual income of no more than £7,400 in order to be eligible for free meals.

Students must also satisfy the residency criteria set out in ESFA Funding regulation guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/free-meals-in-further-education-funded-institutions-guide-for-the-2020-to-2021-academic-year>

## **The Care to Learn scheme can help with childcare costs while you study**

You must be under 20 years old at the start of your course.

The scheme is available for publicly-funded courses in England.

### **You can get Care to Learn if:**

You're a parent under 20 at the start of your course

You're the main carer for your child

You live in England

You're either a British citizen or a national of a European Economic Area (EEA) country

Your course qualifies

Your childcare provider is Ofsted Registered and qualifies

## **The Student Fare Card Scheme**

In addition if you live in Surrey please visit the Surrey County Council website for student bus and rail fare cards for discounted travel within Surrey: bus and train passes or Surrey Student Transport Partnership. If you live in the transport for London area please visit the Transport for London student website: 16-18 Transport for London 18+ Transport for London.

## **Financing Your Study - Students Aged 19 and Over**

### **Don't let finance worries stop you from applying!**

There is a '**19+ Discretionary Learner Support Fund**' for courses up to Level 2

To get Discretionary Learner Support (DLS) you must be:

- 19 or over
- studying at a learning provider funded by the Skills Funding Agency

You must be 20 or over to get help with childcare costs.

If you're 19, apply for Care to Learn instead.

There is also an "**Advanced Learning Loan Bursary**" for Level 3 courses or above.

You may apply to get money from the Loan Bursary Fund after you've received a letter approving you for an Advanced Learner Loan.

If you're 19 or older and studying at Level 3 or above, you can apply for an "Advanced Learner loan" to help with the costs of a college or training course. When you start repaying your loan and how much you repay depends on which repayment plan you're on.

There are 3 plans:

- Plan 1
- Plan 2
- Postgraduate Loan

**For more information, visit;** <https://www.gov.uk/advanced-learner-loan>

### **You can apply for help towards;**

- Accommodation and meals
- Childcare fees - qualifying learners You must not be receiving funding for this childcare from any other source e.g. free early education places (childcare) or Childcare Tax Credits or these hours should be deducted from your claim for Bursary Childcare funding
- Course materials and equipment, books, cost of printing additional course material
- Exam costs (e.g. one resit for eligible learners)
- Travel, such as for public transport or taxis
- Support with Course fees up to 50%
- Educational Visits
- Guests Speakers
- Higher Education students should contact; [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance) for financial support.

**Please contact Admissions Bursary Administrator for more information;** [bursary@brookland.ac.uk](mailto:bursary@brookland.ac.uk)

**GOV.UK Higher Education Student Finance information;** <https://www.gov.uk/browse/education/student-finance>

This guide is for HE students who take out a student loan for an undergraduate, postgraduate or Initial Teacher Training course.

**GOV.UK Benefits for Families information;**

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/families>

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/childcare-parenting/financial-help-children>

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/childcare-parenting/schools-education>

**You may also like to make enquiries to local Charities** (some are designated only to local residents within the borough so please enquire directly)

Charities are not affiliated with the College and are completely independent and therefore the College has no responsibility or liability in relation to any support you may be offered, financially or otherwise. The College is however able to refer you to a Charity initially if you would prefer?

If you would like us to assist you in applying or would like an informal chat about any Charity and what it can provide please pop in and speak to the Admissions Department.

**The Lawrence Atwell's Charity**

<https://www.theskinnerscompany.org.uk/grants-and-trusts/atwell/>

**The Walton Charity**

<http://www.waltoncharity.org.uk/Walton/Pages/Home.asp>

**The Weybridge Charity**

<http://weybridgecharity.org.uk/>

**The Egham Charity**

[www.eghamunitedcharity.org](http://www.eghamunitedcharity.org)

**Please contact Admissions Bursary Administrator for more information;** [bursary@brookland.ac.uk](mailto:bursary@brookland.ac.uk)