

16-19 Bursary Guidance

A key priority of the Government is to close the gap in attainment between those from poorer and more affluent backgrounds, and to ensure every young person participates in and benefits from a place in 16-19 education and training.

The 16-19 Bursary Fund aims to help 16-19 year olds overcome any financial barriers they may face when attending full time education in sixth form. Each sixth form has been allocated a small amount of money by the government to help pay bursaries to students in financial need. To be eligible to receive the 16-19 Bursary students must be aged 16 or over and under 19. Where a student turns 19 during their programme of study they can continue to be supported until the end of the academic year in which they were 19 or until the end of their programme of study whichever is sooner. Students must also satisfy the residency criteria set out in the *EFA Funding Guidance*.

The Bursary Fund is made up of two parts:

Vulnerable Bursary: This is an award of up to £1,200 a year for students who fall into one of the following categories:

- a) Students who are disabled and are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) AND Employment Support Allowance (ESA) or Personal Independence Payments in their own right.
- b) Students in local authority care or have recently left care.
- c) Students who receive Income Support (IS) or Universal Credit (UC) in place of Income Support in their own right.

If you are eligible for the Vulnerable Bursary please contact us as soon as possible.

Discretionary Bursary: This is a small amount of money allocated to students who are not in the groups above but are from low income families. Payments are made to students in ways that best fit the needs and circumstances of the student. Discretionary bursaries are awarded to help towards the cost of transport, books, equipment and course costs. Amounts paid will be subject to the number of students in the category and the availability of funds. Proof of lower income entitlement will be required and copies of documents will be kept on file. Normally bursary payments will be paid directly to the student by cheque in three instalments. Any change in financial circumstances that will affect student entitlement to a Bursary must be notified to the School as soon as possible. Individual cases of extreme hardship can be discussed with the Head of Sixth Form.

Financial support is dependent upon the student meeting attendance, punctuality, behaviour and application criteria. Bursary payments may be withheld if conditions are not met.

All students joining the College's Sixth Form at the start of September will be sent a Bursary Award letter. Eligible students will need to complete and submit their applications to the Sixth Form Office for consideration.

Further information on the 16-19 Bursary Fund is available on the GOV.UK website

<https://www.gov.uk/16-to-19-education-financial-support-for-students>

<https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund>