

16-19 Bursary Fund

What is the 16-19 Bursary Fund?

The fund is made available from the government through its funding body, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), to provide assistance to 16-19 year old students whose access to, or completion of, education is inhibited by financial constraints or barriers.

How does the scheme work?

1. A student applies to the Academy if they are eligible for the award by completing the application form.
2. The Academy reviews each application to ensure the required criteria is met, and also consider any exceptional circumstances.
3. If successful (if you fulfil the criteria for applying then the student should receive the award) the student will receive funding to support their individual educational needs.

The student can then use this money to support their continued education by putting it towards the cost of petrol, transport, trips, uniform, work materials etc.

Am I eligible?

The main criteria by which bursary funds will be made available is explained below.

In order to apply, you must be able to provide evidence of the household income. The student must also have their own bank account into which the money can be transferred, and the bursary will only be paid if the student has over 85% attendance.

How will the academy assess applications and allocate 16-19 Bursary Funding?

Students who are eligible for any level of funding should complete an application form and hand it to the member of staff responsible for the 16-19 bursary at the Academy. Applications will be assessed on the criteria below. Exceptions may be made under exceptional circumstances and will be taken into account on application.

What funding could I receive?

Funding is split into three types –

- Vulnerable Bursary
- Discretionary Bursary
- School Meal Allowance

Vulnerable Bursary

A vulnerable bursary of up to £1,200.00 (per academic year) is available for students who meet the following criteria:

- Is a young person in care
- Is a young care leaver (previously in care or foster care)
- Is in receipt of Income Support or Universal Credit in their own right and are financially supporting themselves and anyone who is dependent upon and living with them
- Is in receipt of 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

If successful, students may receive a bursary of up to £1,200.00. Payment frequency and amounts are evaluated based on individual students' needs. These may be either in a bulk payment, monthly payments or a mix of both.

Students will need to submit a breakdown of funding requirements in order to establish the amount of funding needed. If in their first application they do not submit requirements for the full £1,200.00, they can apply for further funding using the additional funding form up to their £1,200.00 limit should further funding be needed.

Discretionary Bursary

The discretionary bursary is for students who need financial help but do not qualify for a bursary for students in vulnerable groups.

To qualify for the discretionary bursary your total household income per year must be less than £23,972.00.

Students with a total household income of less than £14,405.00 could receive a bursary of up to £750.00 (per academic year).

Students with a total household income of between £14,405.00 and £23,972.00 could receive a bursary of up to £350.00 (per academic year).

Payment frequency and amounts are evaluated based on individual students' needs. These may be either in a bulk payment, monthly payments or a mix of both.

Each student will receive a letter confirming whether their application has been successful or not, along with a breakdown of payments they will receive and when.

Additional funding may be available throughout the year up to their maximum funding limit. The bursary will only be paid if the student has over 85% attendance.

School Meal Allowance

Students can apply to receive a daily school meal allowance if they received FSM in Year 11 (new Y12's only) or meet the following criteria:

Pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Please visit your academy's website for the full 2020/21 policy and application forms, or contact your Head of Year.