

16-19 Bursary Fund Policy 2017/2018

What is the 16-19 Bursary Fund?

The fund is made available from the government through its funding body - the Education Funding Agency (EFA) for 16-19 year olds - to provide assistance to students whose access to, or completion of, education is inhibited by financial constraints or barriers. The 16-19 year old bursary scheme has been put in place as a partial replacement for Education Maintenance Allowance.

Who is eligible to apply for 16-19 Bursary Funding?

Students following government (EFA or ESFA) funded full time or part-time courses, who are 16 years and over and satisfy one or more of the following criteria:-

- Students aged at least 16 and under 19 years of age on 31/08/17 who are in care, are leaving care, are in direct receipt of Income Support or Universal Credit, or are disabled and in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments.
- Students aged 19 or over and have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
- Students aged 19 or over at 31/08/17 and continuing on a study programme they began aged 16 to 18 ('19+ continuers')
- Students who are economically or socially disadvantaged and at risk of not taking up or continuing in their education. This group includes students with physical or other disabilities, medical conditions and/or learning difficulties.
- Students who have been in care, on probation, are young parents or are otherwise considered at risk.
- Unaccompanied Asylum seekers
- Refugees (who will have access to 16-19 Bursary Funding if they are in receipt of supportive evidence from DWP).
- Lone parents

Who is NOT eligible for 16-19 Bursary Funding?

- Students under 16 years of age or over 19 years of age on 31/08/2017.
- Students who do not meet the residency qualifications.
- Accompanied asylum seeking children (under 18 with an adult relative or partner). Generally, asylum seekers are not entitled to public funds. However, Institutions can provide in kind student support such as course related books, equipment or a travel pass.

How does the Academy assess applications and allocate 16-19 Bursary funding?

The 16-19 Bursary Fund is a limited fund and the Academy will prioritise allocation. There will be 3 priority groups, categorised as high, medium and low.

High priority

Students aged under 19 on 31/08/17 and who fall into one of the following categories:

- Are currently in care (as defined by social services)
- Are leaving or have recently left care
- Are in receipt of Income Support or Universal Credit in their own name.
- Are disabled and in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments.

Eligible students will be guaranteed a £1,200 bursary plus support for other costs such as transport, equipment etc.

Payments will be made on a bi-termly basis (i.e. 6 times per year)

Medium priority

Students who fall into any the following category:

- Have a gross annual household income of below £20,000.

Eligible students in this group, if they apply to the 16–19 Bursary Fund by 30 September 2017, may be eligible for a contribution towards:

- A bursary of £200, if aged under 19 on 31 August 2017, dependent on meeting agreed attendance and progress criteria.
This will be subject to availability of funds.

Payments will be made on a termly basis (i.e. 3 times per year)

Low priority

- Have a gross annual household income of between £20,000 and £25,000

Those in the low priority group will be considered for funding based on the Academy allocation and subject to available funding after those in the high and medium priority groups have been awarded. Students in this group may receive a contribution of up to £100 maximum towards the cost of essential course equipment and transport costs which could include :-

- Course equipment - text books or revision guides
- Trips related to subjects – 50% of total cost with a maximum contribution of £50.
- Re-sit costs – 50%
- Travel costs according to distance – help with public transport costs if you live more than 2 miles away from Sixth Form and on production of tickets.

Pre-approval for the above items will be required before any payments will be made. Payments will be made on as and when required basis.

Students qualifying for the full bursary will be dealt with on a priority basis and all other payments will be made subject to final applicant numbers.