



16-19 Further Education Bursary

2026-27

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Policy Statement

The 16-19 Bursary Fund is provided by the Department of Education (DfE) and is designed to help students overcome the specific financial barriers to participation they face so that they can remain in education. Students can apply for the 16-19 bursary if they live in a household with an income of £30,000 or less (+£1,000 for each dependent sibling under the age of 18) inclusive of benefits.

Information

- The DfE publishes guidance which set out the criteria for these funds.
- Students wishing to apply for support with the essential costs of coming to college including transport need to apply for the 16-19 bursary.
- Students can apply for the college bursary using the online application form found on the college website once they have enrolled in August.
<https://bilborough.ac.uk/student-support/financial-support/>

Bursary Eligibility

All Bilborough College students are eligible to apply for bursary support.

There are two types of 16-19 bursaries.

- Bursaries for defined vulnerable groups.
- Discretionary bursaries awarded by the college using criteria in line with the funding rules.

Defined vulnerable groups.

Young people in care by the local authority or on a voluntary basis (section 20 of the Children act 1989) or under a care order (section 31 of the Children Act 1989). Section 22 of the Children act 1989 defines the term 'looked after child'.

- Care leavers (have been in care for a period of at least 13 weeks after the age of 14)
- Young people in receipt Universal Credit in their own right.
- Young people in receipt of Disability Living Allowance **or** Personal Independence Payments **AND** Employment Support Allowance/Universal Credit in their own right

Discretionary Bursary

- Young people with a **total** (inclusive of benefits) household income of less than £30,000 (sliding scale of support).

Eligibility

- Students must meet the residency criteria in [DfE funding rules](#) for post-16 provision.
- All bursary applicants must complete an online bursary application <https://bilborough.ac.uk/students/financial-support/> and upload the financial evidence, examples of financial evidence can be found on the college website. Incorrect or insufficient financial evidence will delay the processing of the application. Those that need help to complete the form should see a staff member located in Student Support or email bursary@bilborough.ac.uk.
- Applications to the bursary are means-tested and proof of eligibility such as wage slips, P60, 3 months of recent Full University Credit statements or Tax Credit Award Notices **must** be provided to verify income.
- Students who meet the criteria, and who have financial need, can apply for a bursary for **vulnerable groups**. The college can pay up to £1200 per year.
- Students identified as **Discretionary Bursary** will be given support in accordance with their needs (see below), subject to funding being available.

Permitted use of funds

- Bursaries will usually be paid 'in kind' rather than monetary payments e.g. the issue of travel passes, college meals where eligible, essential course books, equipment, cost towards attending university open days/interviews and essential activities that are part of the student's programme. The bursary is not intended to cover the full cost of essentials involved in attending college but can provide a contribution towards these costs. Cash payments will only be made in very exceptional cases and **will be paid to the student, not parent/guardian.**
- Bursary students will have priority access in terms of borrowing technical equipment related to their course for example cameras (subject to availability).
- If a Bursary student does not have access to a suitable digital device at home, they will have access to a laptop loan for their period of study at Bilborough College (subject to availability). Laptops can be collected from the LIC by showing the student bursary approval letter. **Please note - Students may be asked to pay towards the replacement for any loss or damage to the laptop.**
- The bursary fund is **not** intended to support extra-curricular activities that are not essential to the students' study programme, or to pay for exam retakes or towards living costs.

Conditions to receiving the bursary

- It is expected that students in receipt of a college bursary, along with all other students, will adhere to the terms and conditions set out in the core expectations and student agreement, particularly in terms of attendance, commitment to study and behaviour. **Students who do not adhere to these terms and conditions may have all or part of their bursary allocation withdrawn.**
- Students and their parents/carers will be asked to declare that the evidence given in support of the application is correct and complete to the best of their knowledge and belief. By submitting an application, the student and their parent/carer are agreeing to all of the conditions and eligibility criteria. Giving false information which results in an overpayment will mean that future awards will be stopped, and the college will seek repayment of the value of any awards made so far. The matter may also be referred to the police and student and or their parents/carers may face prosecution.

Travel Costs

- Students who live within a 1.5-mile radius of college will **not** receive support with travel costs, as it is expected that they can walk or cycle to college. Exceptional circumstances, such as disability, will be taken into account.
- We aim to offer students from the lowest household incomes free travel on local public transport networks or college buses, subject to funds being available.
- Any support towards the cost of a college bus pass will be paid directly to the college Finance department.
- Support with Nottingham City Transport will usually be in the form of an academic 'Easyrider' travel pass and bursary contributions will be paid directly to NCTx.
- Robin Hood Pass –will be an academic year pass and applications must be received by **October** half term to qualify for this. Bursary contributions will be paid directly to Robin Hood Network.

Free College meals

- Free meals are targeted at disadvantaged students and this funding forms part of the overall Bursary Fund designed to overcome the financial barriers to participation. From 2026-27 academic year households in receipt of Universal Credit will be eligible for free college meals. The government funded meal rate is currently £2.66 per eligible student per day; however, the college will use the discretionary bursary to top this up to a value of £4.00 to ensure students have access to an adequate meal.

The criteria used to allocate free college meals are available on the gov.uk website.

- College meals are only to be used by the allocated bursary student. Student I.D cards will be scanned to purchase meals.

Administration

- Learners will be informed of the bursary fund and how to apply through a variety of means, including information on open days, enrolment, college website, Skills and Progression sessions, emails and social media.
- Bursary applications are online from the college website <https://bilborough.ac.uk/student-support/financial-support/>
- Financial evidence will need to be uploaded to complete your bursary application. Up to date, valid supporting evidence **must** be produced at the time of application. Applications that do not include appropriate evidence will not be processed until the required financial evidence is submitted. Examples of financial evidence can be found on the college website.
- Decisions will be made in accordance with the guideline from DfE and the criteria agreed at the beginning of the year and will vary depending on the amount of funding received by the college. This will be reviewed annually; **an award in one year does not guarantee an award being made the following year**, a new application will need to be submitted each year.
- The panel administering bursary applications are members of the Student Support team.
- Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by college email, along with an outline of the rationale behind the decision.
- Decisions will usually be communicated to applicants within three weeks of an application being submitted, however at busy periods, this may take longer.
- If a learner leaves their course early or their attendance drops below 95% they may be required to return equipment supplied/bought through the fund or repay a relevant amount to the college.

Appeals

- If a student is unhappy with the decision regarding their application, they should appeal in writing to the Welfare Officer.
- Students should state clearly why they are appealing and give reasons, together with additional supporting evidence, as to why their case should be reviewed.

- The letter or email of appeal should be addressed to Helen Ginns-Farrow, Welfare Officer & Operational Designated Safeguarding Lead, helen.ginns-farrow@bilborough.ac.uk who will review the case. A decision will be made and supplied to the student, along with the reasons behind the decision, usually within 10 working days of the receipt of the appeal.

More information can be found by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund>

How we process Your data

The information required to process a bursary application is detailed on the Bursary Application form.

Data Protection - How we process your information.

Bursary applicants are required to submit a completed bursary application form with supporting evidence of income. This information is used to evaluate bursary applications; it is not used for any other purposes. We only keep this data for as long as we need it and currently the government department that provides the bursary funding requires us to retain this information for a period of 6 years.

Data is recorded in our student records system and in Pay My Student to indicate where individual students are in receipt of a bursary, no other information relating to bursary is recorded in the student records system. This data is retained in accordance with our retention policy and used for analysis purposes and statutory data returns.