



FE Bursary Fund Policy and Procedure 2018-2019

Myerscough College has clear criteria under which it administers and distributes funds received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and this policy illustrates the different funds that comprise the FE Bursary Fund together with the eligibility criteria and application process.

The College will ensure that all applications for the Bursary Fund and the Discretionary Learner Support (DLS) Fund are considered on the same basis irrespective of age, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, belief or faith.

This policy applies to all students at all centres on programmes of study funded by the ESFA, subject to meeting eligibility criteria as detailed in this policy and as required by the funding bodies.

Introduction

The FE bursary fund comprises of a number of funds:

- **16-19 Bursary Fund**

A key priority of the Government is to eliminate 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 Government provides funding to tackle the disadvantaged both through the Education and Skills Funding Agency's (ESFA) funding formula and through support to help young people meet the costs of participating in education and training post-16. Young people in the defined vulnerable groups will be eligible for a bursary of at least £1,200 (pro-rata for courses lasting less than 30 weeks a year). The Bursary Fund is provided by the Department of Education administered through the ESFA.

- **16-18 Residential Bursary Fund (RBF)**

RBF is intended to provide financial help towards the costs of accommodation for young people attending one of the designated providers of specialist provision, where that provision requires the young person to be resident in order to participate because it is not available locally and / or because it requires learners to be available at unsociable hours on a regular basis. RBF should be used to help young people with the costs of accommodation whilst they are learning; the accommodation may be owned or managed by the learning provider or be owned by a private landlord. It is anticipated that the majority of RBF funding will be used to cover accommodation costs. However, RBF may also be used to help with travel costs between the young person's lodgings and the provider where appropriate. The RBF fund is provided by the Department of Education administered through the ESFA.

- **19+ Discretionary Learner Support for Hardship, Residential Support and Childcare (DLS)**

DLS is designed to provide financial support to those learners experiencing financial hardship that prevents them from participating in learning. The Learner's specific financial hardship need must be identified within the following areas, 19+ hardship, 20+ childcare or residential support for learners attending specialist provision. DLS is available to support Learners studying adult further education and skills in Colleges. DLS funding is provided by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills administered through the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

- **Advanced Learning Loans Bursary Fund**

Disbursed by colleges and training organisations that have an allocated loans facility. This will help vulnerable loans learners, such as those with learning difficulties or disabilities, parents who need help with childcare, and ex-military personnel. The fund will be distributed at the discretion of the provider and is not an entitlement. Funding may be provided for:

- **Discretionary Learner Support (DLS):** for hardship, childcare and residential support
- **Additional Learning Support:** Learning support (including exceptional Learning Support) for 'in learning' support. For example, this includes support for teaching assistants or necessary adjustments under the Equality Act.

Providers may use up to 5% of their allocations to cover administrative costs.

- **Further Education Free Meals**

FE funded institutions are required to make provision for free meals to disadvantaged students following FE courses. Funding is provided by the Department of Education administered through the ESFA.

Students must:

- Be enrolled on a Further Education Course (not work based training or modern apprenticeship)
- Have a household income of less than £30,000 per annum (including benefits);
- Have parental savings/investments of less than £13,400 (awards may be reduced for savings greater than £10,000);
- Not be on a placement year;
- Follow the criteria as stated in the ESFA guidelines.

The amount of the award is determined by income band, based on evidence of annual household income, and funding allocated to Myerscough College. Allocations are subject to change each academic year. Funding provided to the College is limited, and funds are to be used to support learners in accordance with the ESFA guidance issued to providers.

Where a student's attendance and / or behaviour does not reach the required standard the funding could be withheld. In addition, if students decide to withdraw from their course they may be required to repay all or part of any grant already received.

Students living in Scotland are not eligible to apply and should contact their local authority to apply for a Scottish Education Maintenance allowance.

Students living in Wales should contact their local authority to apply for a Welsh Education Maintenance allowance. They are also entitled to apply for a 16-18 Discretionary Bursary but are not eligible for a bursary for the 'Defined Vulnerable Group' bursary. Awards to students receiving Welsh EMA will be reduced to reflect the EMA payments.

Further Education Free Meals

Students apply through the Bursary Fund and must meet the following criteria set by the ESFA in order to receive free meals.

The following students may be entitled to free meals:

- students aged 16-18 on 31 August 2018;
- students aged 19+ who are continuing on a study programme they began aged 16 to 18 ('19+ continuers');
- students aged 19-24 who are subject to a Learning Difficulty Assessment (LDA) or Education Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan).

Providing the students or their parents are in receipt of one, or more, of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers 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 (providing they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an annual gross income or no more than £16,190, as assessed by HMRC
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit with net earnings not exceeding the equivalent of £7,400 pa

16-19 Bursary Fund – Defined Vulnerable Group

A guaranteed payment of £1,200 (increases to £1,600 if entitled to Further Education Free Meals) will be available for the following groups of learners to help with the cost of travel to College, lunch, equipment or other course related costs:

- Young people in care;
- Care leavers;
- Young people 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;
- Young people 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.

16-19 Bursary Fund

Applications are assessed for a bursary to help students towards the costs of travelling to College, subject to them living more than 3 miles away from the centre being attended. For students attending the Preston Centre, awards will be given as a contribution towards the cost of a bus pass for use on College / service buses. This is in accordance with the Highways Agency policy to discourage additional vehicles on the College campus. For students attending the other centres, awards will be given as a contribution towards the cost of a bus pass for the local area. Any bus passes lost will **not** be replaced and students will be liable for the cost of their travel during the rest of the term.

Students not living on a bus route may be awarded a payment towards the cost of fuel based on mode of transport and mileage travelled.

16-19 Travel Award	
Income Bands	
£ per annum	% of cost
Up to 24,000	100*
24,001 – 30,000	50*

* Maximum award for travel is either £500 + bus pass or £800 without bus pass

If a student is entitled to Further Education Free Meals, a food allowance of £2.41 each day (including placements and trips) will be awarded in addition to the travel award above. This will be given in the form of a meal card for Preston, Liverpool and Witton students. For students at other centres a monthly cash payment will be made. If a student's household income is under £24,000 this will be topped up to a meal card.

If funds allow, additional awards may be made at the discretion of the Deputy Principal – Finance and Corporate Services.

Students aged 19+ who are continuing on a study programme they began aged 16 to 18 ('19+ continuers') and students aged 19-24 who are subject to a Learning Difficulty Assessment (LDA) or Education Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) will be awarded the following from the 16-19 Bursary:

19+ Maintenance Award	
Income Bands	
£ per annum	£
Up to 24,000	95 + meal card + 400
24,001 – 30,000	95 + FCM

Free College Meal (FCM) – If a student is entitled to Further Education Free Meals, a food allowance of £2.41 each day (including placements and trips) will be awarded in addition to the above. This will be given in the form of a meal card for Preston, Liverpool and Witton students. For students at other centres a monthly cash payment will be made.

16-18 Residential Bursary Fund

Applications are assessed for a residential bursary for students living away from home during term time, whether staying on campus or in a property on a list provided by our Residential Services.

16-18 Residency Award	
Income Bands	
£ per annum	£
Up to 20,000	3,400
20,001 – 25,000	2,300
25,001 – 30,000	1,200

Awards will be made from the fund directly to Myerscough College or to the landlord towards the cost of accommodation. If student is entitled to Further Education Free Meals, each award will be increased by £400.

19+ Discretionary Learner Support & Advanced Learning Loans Bursary Fund

Applications are assessed as follows:

- **Financial hardship:** which may include tuition; registration and exam fees; travel costs; essential equipment; materials and field trips;
- **Childcare costs:** for parents aged 20 or over (parents **under** the age of 20 can get help through a separate programme called Care to Learn);
- **Residential support:** help with accommodation costs (the College must not be within a reasonable travelling distance of a student's home).

19+ Residency Award	
Income Bands	
£ per annum	£
Up to 20,000	3,400
20,001 – 25,000	2,300
25,001 – 30,000	1,200

19+ Travel Award	
Income Bands	
£ per annum	% of cost
Up to 24,000	100*
24,001 – 30,000	50*

* Maximum award for travel is either £500 + bus pass or

£800 without bus pass

19+ Maintenance Award				
Income Bands	Preston Centre		Other Centres	
	£	£	£	£
Up to 24,000	95 + meal card	375 + 675	30 + meal card	375 + 675
24,001 – 30,000	95	125	30	125

tuition waived

tuition payable

tuition waived

tuition payable

Procedure

- All applicants must complete an online application.
- Applications will be available through the students Mypage, from June prior to the relevant academic year.
- All relevant questions in the application must be completed.
- To avoid delays, all evidence requested should be uploaded within the application or sent to the Finance Office immediately on submission.
- All students with applications to the Bursary Fund should have a bank account as payment may be made directly into your bank (if applicable).
- All declarations must be read and approved as detailed on the application.
- All applications will be responded to by email, using the address supplied in the application, whether successful or not within 3 weeks (5 weeks if the application has been made in September).
- Applications will be assessed on total household income as detailed in the terms and conditions.
- RBF is intended to provide financial help towards the costs of accommodation for young people attending one of the designated providers of specialist provision, where that provision requires the young person to be resident in order to participate because it is not available locally and / or because it requires learners to be available at unsociable hours on a regular basis. All residential applications will be assessed on these criteria.
- Decisions on the level of financial support offered to applicants will be made by a member of the Finance Office.
- Awards will be paid either direct to Myerscough College towards the cost of accommodation, bus passes, fees etc or be paid by BACS direct to the student in three instalments at the beginning of each term (following the third week after attendance has been checked).
- Appeals against an award should be made to the Deputy Principal Finance and Corporate Services, stating clearly the grounds upon which the appeal is based - only appeals that are made in writing will be considered.
- Late applications (received after 30 November following the start of the academic year) and incomplete applications at that date will only be backdated to the start of the academic year at the College's discretion.
- Funds are limited and once they have been allocated in full the College reserves the right to close the fund.

Documents Associated with this Policy

EFA 16-18 Residential Bursary Fund Guide for 2018/19
EFA 16-19 Bursary Fund Guide for 2018/19
SFA Adult Education Budget Funding Rules 2018 to 2019
SFA Advanced Learner Loans Funding Rules 2018 to 2019

Document History			
Author:	Director of Finance	Ref and Document Version:	FE Bursary Fund Policy and Procedure 2018-2019 – V1
Approval:	Finance Committee	Approval Date:	June 2018
Review Date:	June 2019		
Publication:	Staff Intranet Student Intranet College Website		
Quality Assurance			
This Policy and Procedure maps to the following external quality assurance frameworks			
Framework		Framework Section Reference(s)	
Common Inspection Framework			
MATRIX			
QAA			
QIA			
SFA			

All Myerscough College Policies are subject to screening for Equality Impact Assessment

Equality Impact Assessments are carried out to see whether the policy has, or is likely to have, a negative impact on grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, marriage or civil partnership, sex or sexual orientation

Myerscough College not only fulfils its legal position in relation to current and future equality legislation, but additionally goes beyond compliance in providing and promoting “Opportunities for all to succeed”, free from any aspect of discrimination, harassment or victimisation.

All staff have a duty of care to look after the interests of and support their colleagues. *This policy takes account of* our commitment to eliminating discrimination, identifying and removing barriers and providing equal opportunities for our learners, staff and visitors to ensure that no one feels excluded or disadvantaged.

Safeguarding, Learner Protection and Prevent

All staff have a responsibility to support and promote the College’s commitment to providing a safe environment for students, staff and visitors. Additionally, all staff have a responsibility to report any safeguarding or Prevent issues to the Designated Senior Lead for Safeguarding and Prevent.