



16-19 Financial Support Policy 2020/21

Date approved: 04.09.20
Approved by: SMT
Responsible Manager (s): Director for Students
Executive Lead: Vice Principal HE and Student Enhancement

Applicable to staff: Yes
Applicable to students: Yes
Accessible to students: Yes
Accessible to general public:
(including clients) Yes

Consultation

Consultation undertaken with:

- | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| • SMT | Yes | 04.09.2020 |
| • AMT | Yes | 20.08.2020 |
| • CCMT | Yes | 20.08.2020 |
| • Students | Yes | 16.08.2020 |

Policy review frequency: normally annually

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1. Scope and purpose of this policy

1.1 This policy applies to students who are aged 16+ but under 19 as of 31 August 2020. Students aged 19+ are only eligible to receive a discretionary bursary if they are continuing on a study programme, they began aged 16 to 18 (19+ continuers) or have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). These two groups of aged 19+ students can receive a discretionary bursary while they continue to attend education (in the case of 19+ continuers, this must be the same programme they started before they turned 19), as long as their eligibility continues and Blackpool and The Fylde College (B&FC) considers they need the support to continue their participation. This funding is restricted and cannot be guaranteed.

1.2 The purpose of this policy is to articulate how B&FC meets the requirements of the 16-19 Bursary Fund and how this funding is used to support eligible students.

2. Policy statement

2.1 The 16-19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to help students overcome specific barriers to participation so they can access and remain in education. This policy demonstrates how the College works within ESFA guidelines to administer funds from the 16-19 Bursary Funds to support eligible students. To receive financial support students will normally have a minimum attendance of 90%.

2.2 B&FC is committed to ensuring that all eligible students are given the opportunity to appeal against a funding support decision if they believe, and can evidence, that they have reasonable grounds to do so.

2.3 The support for eligible students is set out below:

Type of support	What students may be eligible for	Eligibility requirements
Discretionary Student Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Free Blackpool Transport smart card available via an app (hard copy by exception) for unlimited travel on any Blackpool Transport bus or tram for students who live 1.5 miles away or more from the campus which they attend.	Household income less than £30,810 per year as evidenced by eligible benefit evidence or proof of parent/carer income for 2019/20. Exceptions can be considered on a case by case basis by the Chief Operating Officer

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A travel bursary of £60 per month if student lives outside of the Blackpool Transport area • A free dedicated College bus covering travel from Poulton-le-Fylde to Bispham on a circular route. This resource is available to all students. • Taxi support 	<p>If a student is unable to use public transport as a result of a learning difficulty or disability, they may be eligible for support via their Local Authority in the first instance.</p> <p>B&FC can consider applications for taxi support where there is evidence of the student's disability ie their latest disability benefit letter and evidence that household income is less than £30,810</p>
Free Meals	A free daily lunch may be supplied as a voucher redeemable at external retail outlets	<p>Specific benefit evidence as set out by the government to show unemployment or very low household income.</p> <p>For the full criteria please see the direct.gov website here</p>
Vulnerable Bursary	<p>Up to £1,200 of support that can be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free meals • A bursary paid every two weeks • A Blackpool Transport smart card (also available via online app). 	<p>The bursary may be paid on a pro rata basis for courses shorter than 30 weeks. Only applies to students aged 16-18. For defined vulnerable groups as detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people in care • Care leavers • Receiving Income Support or Universal Credit because they are financially supporting themselves • Receiving Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments in their own right as well as Employment and Support Allowance or the equivalent Universal Credit in their own right

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are treated as looked after children and classed as being 'in care'
ESFA Funded Childcare (Care to Learn)	Help with the cost of childcare up to a maximum of £160 per child per week. Students must be aged under 20 at the start of their course	Must be on a publicly funded course. Apply online at https://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn
Residential Support Scheme	Help towards the cost of accommodation	<p>Eligibility rules apply which can be found at https://www.gov.uk/residential-support-scheme/residential-support-scheme</p> <p>Households must not be in receipt of Housing Benefit and must have an annual income of less than £30,993. The course must be more than either 15 miles away or a 2 hour round trip from home, not be available locally and is their first full level 2 or 3 qualification.</p>

2.4 If a student has a particular barrier to learning and requires financial support for something not listed above, they should apply for funding through the Barriers to Learning scheme.

3. Accountability

3.1 The Director for Students is responsible for ensuring this policy is accessible and current.

4. Student Involvement

4.1 The Student Union and elected representatives were consulted in the formation of this policy.

5. Linked policies

- 19+ ESFA Financial Support Policy 2020/21
- Advanced Learner Loan Financial Support Policy 2020/21
- Financial Support Appeals Policy and Procedure 2020/21

6. Linked procedures

- NA

7. Equality Impact Assessment

Impact Assessment for the 4 strands of Equality, Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Sustainability	
Initial Form to be completed with Risk Assessments or as part of a proposal or change to a policy, plan or new way of working	
<p>Title of Activity: 16-19 Financial Support Policy</p> <p>Author and Date: Director for Students, July 2020</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> New or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revision: Please tick as appropriate</p> <p>Expected Implementation Date: September 2020</p> <p>What is the review date? May 2021</p>
<p>Equality and Diversity. Which of the characteristics maybe impacted upon? And, if yes, how has this been considered? What are the risks? What are the benefits?</p>	
<p>Safeguarding: Are there any aspects of this proposal which could cause a learner/member of staff/visitor to feel unsafe? If yes, how has this been considered? What are the risks? What are the benefits?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Health and Safety: Have any risks been identified? If yes, how has this been considered? What are the risks? What are the benefits?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Sustainability: Are there expected benefits or impacts on sustainability issues? If yes, how have these been considered?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Evidence: What evidence do you have for your conclusions and expectations for these conclusions? How will this impact be monitored for all these considerations?</p>	
<p>Is this policy of a high/medium or low risk?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low</p>