

Bursary Eligibility

Our Student Opportunity Fund is intended solely for those facing genuine economic hardship. To be eligible for a bursary you or a parent/guardian must meet **one** of the criteria below and provide one piece of evidence to support your application.

We do **not** accept as evidence: P60 (end of year certificate); annual accounts; council tax/housing/child benefit letters.

We reserve the right to request additional evidence if, in our view, the initial supporting documentation is not sufficient to verify your eligibility.

The Student Opportunity fund will cover:

Travel

Food

Accommodation

How it works

Applicants will be asked to submit an estimate of costs at time of application for Fund support. We encourage applicants to seek the most cost-effective options. We reserve the right to refuse any claims which seem unreasonable or excessive.

Once costs have been agreed, the first half of the payment will be made on the first day of the programme, and the second half on the last day if the programme has been successfully completed. Payment will be made to the bank account identified at time of application. Requests for cash payments and/or reimbursement at more regular intervals will be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Failure to complete the programme will result in non-payment of expenses in almost all cases.

Eligibility Criteria and required evidence

- Free School Meals
 - A recent letter from your school/college confirming you receive free school meals (Local Authority funded only).
- 16 to 19 Bursary (England), or EMA (Scotland, Wales or NI)
 - Your official award letter for the current academic year. (Evidence that relates to scholarships/bursaries at independent or fee-paying schools is NOT accepted.)
- Learner Support (FE 19+) or equivalent for Scotland, Wales or NI
 - Your official award letter for the current academic year.
- HE Student Finance means-tested maintenance award (full rate)
 - Your award letter for the current academic year - ALL PAGES must be provided.
 - This includes a Student Finance England Maintenance Grant/Loan (full-rate), Student Awards Agency Scotland Young / Independent Students' Bursary (full-rate), or a Student Finance Wales or Northern Ireland Maintenance Grant (full-rate).

- Please ensure you check what qualifies as a full-rate maintenance award [here](#) BEFORE you apply.
 - Awards must be for undergraduate study. Postgraduate loans are not accepted as they are not means-tested.
- Universal Credit
 - The first page of your or your parent/guardian's Universal Credit statement, dated within the last 3 months. We MUST be able to see the name and address of the claimant, the date, and the award amount.
- Working or Child Tax Credit
 - The first page of your or your parent/guardian's award letter, dated within the last 12 months. We MUST be able to see the name and address of the claimant and the date of the letter.
- Income Support, or Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA), or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
 - ALL PAGES of your or your parent/guardian's award letter from the UK Jobcentre Plus, dated 2023.
 - If it is your parent/guardian in receipt of JSA or ESA then it MUST be the income-based benefit (e.g. means-tested) and NOT contribution-based. This is specified on the final page of the award letter.
- Asylum Support
 - Your or your parent/guardian's official award letter, dated in the last 12 months.