



FE Bursary Policy 2024-25

Policy Statement

City of Bristol College bursary funds are designed to widen participation and to support our students to attend college and achieve their goals, as well as to support their general welfare. The funds are distributed in accordance to Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and West of England Combined Authority (WECA) funding rules.

Scope

The College receives an allocation for the following:

1. Vulnerable bursaries (16-



1. Vulnerable Bursary

A Vulnerable Bursary can be awarded up to the sum of £1,200 a year for students aged 16 or over but under 19 at 31 August or 19-24 yrs. students with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) who are in one of the following vulnerable groups:

- In care
- Care Leaver
- Financially supporting themselves and someone who is dependent on them and in receipt of Income Support or Universal Credit
- Receiving Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment in their own right and in receipt of Employment Support Allowance or Universal Credit

Students that are identified as being in one of these groups are not automatically entitled as the award is based on financial needs or where these needs are not covered from other sources. Students may receive a lower amount or no bursary at all if they do not have any participation costs.

Eligible students may be supported with the following costs; transport, meals, books, uniform and equipment. As stated in the funding guidance we are unable to cover other living costs, extra-curricular activities, counselling, mentoring or extra tutoring. In the event of a withdrawal any unspent funds are re-claimed.

Students should keep receipts showing that the award is being spent as intended, checks may be carried out to ensure the funds are being used for their intended purpose.

Where IT equipment such as laptops are provided, these are a loan and are required to be returned at the end of the course in the same condition when issued.

2. Discretionary Bursary (16-18 & EHCP)

Discretionary Bursary is available to students aged 16 or over but under 19 at 31 August 2021 or 19-24 students with an Education, Health and C



The cost of books, uniforms and equipment costs are usually charged direct by the curriculum area and the items are purchased on behalf of the student. The costs available are defined for each course to meet the needs of that course. Travel is paid on days of the timetabled course for individuals where the home to college journey is more than 3 miles.

6. Discretionary Learner Support Fund (for 19 plus students)

Students aged 19 or over are eligible to receive a discretionary bursary if 19 or over, on a further education course and facing financial hardship.

19+ students can receive a discretionary bursary while they continue to attend education (in the case of a 19+ continuer, this must be the same programme they started before they turned 19), as long as their eligibility continues and their institution considers they need the support to continue their participation.

To be eligible for support students must be:

- 19 or over
- Studying for a qualification funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) or West of England Combined Authority (WECA)
- Meet the ESFA or West of England Combined Authority (WECA) residency criteria of home student
- Gross income less than £23,000 if living independently, or gross household income less than £32,000

Eligible students can receive support with childcare (if they are aged 20 or older on the first day of their course), travel, course materials and equipment.

Students will be expected to use any free childcare funding they receive to cover the course hours, and the bursary will support additional hours. Students aged 19 can apply for childcare through Care to Learn. Childcare funding is only available for childcare delivered b





| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Version | |
| Approved by: | Finance & Resources Committee |
| Date of approval: | June 2024 |
| Date for Review: | June 2025 |
| Lead Officer: | |