

These guidance notes should be read alongside the **2026-2027 Student Support Fund Policy and Procedures**, available on our website or from Student Services.

The College receives a set amount of funding each year from the Department for Education (DfE) to support eligible learners. **Funds are limited and awards cannot be guaranteed**, so please apply as early as possible. Applications are assessed in the order they are received and must be fully completed and including all the required evidence. Incomplete applications will be marked 'incomplete/awaiting evidence' on the online portal.

Eligibility does not guarantee an award will be made as funding is limited and will close when fully allocated. Awards may also be reduced if demand is high.

Funding can only be released once you have **enrolled and started your course**. Initial awards are normally made within **4 weeks** of your course start date or from the date we receive your fully completed application (whichever is later).

Loan-funded learners must also have an **approved loan** and be past the **loan liability point (2 weeks from learner start date)**.

If you withdraw from your course, you may be asked to repay funds or return items such as kit or uniform purchased with the funds. If you are on a two-year course, you will need to re-apply for support each year. Eligibility and awards may change.

## Free Further Education Meals

Eligibility	<p>You may be eligible if, on <b>31<sup>st</sup> August 2026</b>, you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are aged <b>16–18</b>, or</li> <li>• Are aged <b>19–24</b> with an <b>Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)</b>, or</li> <li>• Are aged <b>19 or over</b> and continuing on a study programme that began when you were aged <b>16–18</b> (a <i>19+ continuer</i>),</li> </ul> <p><b>and</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You are studying a <b>publicly funded qualification up to Level 3</b> (Ofqual-accredited).</li> </ul> <p><b>and</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You or your parent/guardian receive one or more of the following benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Universal Credit</li> <li>▪ Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)</li> <li>▪ Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999</li> <li>▪ The guarantee element of State Pension Credit</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
What you can receive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>£2.66 meal allowance per day</b> when you are in college</li> </ul>
How it works	<p>Use your <b>Student ID card</b> to buy food at college outlets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No change is given if you spend less than £2.66</li> <li>• You may spend more, but you must pay the difference</li> </ul>
How to apply	<p>Apply online <b>from 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026</b> at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://escg.paymystudent.com/portal/">https://escg.paymystudent.com/portal/</a> or</li> <li>• Click the link on our website <a href="http://www.escg.ac.uk">www.escg.ac.uk</a></li> </ul> <p>You will receive an email decision or request for more information</p>

## 16-18 Discretionary Bursary Funds

Eligibility	<p>You may be eligible if, on <b>31<sup>st</sup> August 2026</b>, you meet <b>all</b> of the following conditions: You are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aged <b>16–18</b>, or</li> <li>• Aged <b>19–24</b> with an <b>Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)</b>, or</li> <li>• Aged <b>19 or over</b> and continuing on a study programme that started when you were aged <b>16–18</b> (a <i>19+ continuer</i>),</li> </ul> <p><b>and</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are studying a <b>publicly funded qualification up to Level 3</b> (Ofqual-accredited).</li> </ul> <p><b>and</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can demonstrate a <b>financial need</b> to participate in education.</li> </ul> <p><b>and either:</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> You or your parent/guardian receive <b>one or more</b> of the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universal Credit</li> <li>• Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)</li> <li>• Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999</li> <li>• The guarantee element of State Pension Credit</li> </ul> <p><b>and</b> your total household income is no more than £35,000 per year, including earnings and benefits,</p> <p><b>Or</b></p> <p><b>B.</b> You have a <b>total household income of £35,000 or less per year</b>, including earned income and benefits.</p>
Amount of award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awards are based on your individual costs of attending college up to the maximum amount as set out in the policy</li> </ul>
What the fund can help with	<p>Help towards the costs of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel (including work placements)</li> <li>• Compulsory books, equipment, uniforms, materials, trips</li> <li>• Mandatory trips</li> </ul> <p><b>Travel:</b> you must live <b>more than 1.5 miles</b> from your campus and use available discounts (distance checked via Google maps walking route)</p>
Payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paid to your bank account or credited to college account depending on the item. Full details on the award letter</li> <li>• Travel normally paid in 6 instalments/twice per term</li> </ul>
Additional Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payment based on 85% attendance at college or at work placements and appropriate behaviour</li> <li>• Payments may be reduced or withheld if attendance falls</li> </ul>
How to apply	<p>Apply online <b>from 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026</b> at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://escg.paymystudent.com/portal/">https://escg.paymystudent.com/portal/</a> or</li> <li>• Click the link on our website <a href="http://www.escg.ac.uk">www.escg.ac.uk</a></li> </ul> <p>You will receive an email decision or request for more information</p>

## 16-18 Priority Bursary

Eligibility	<p>You may be eligible if, on <b>31<sup>st</sup> August 2026</b>, you are aged <b>16–18</b>, are studying a <b>publicly funded qualification up to Level 3</b> (Ofqual-accredited), and you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are in care or leaving care, or</li> <li>• Receive Income Support or Universal Credit in your own name, or</li> <li>• Receive both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) or Universal Credit, and</li> <li>▪ Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payment (PIP) <i>(in your own name)</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Amount of award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to maximum of £1,200 per year, based on your actual needs</li> </ul>
What the fund can help with	<p>Help towards the costs of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel (including work placements)</li> <li>• Compulsory books, equipment, uniforms, materials</li> <li>• Mandatory trips</li> </ul> <p><b>Travel:</b> you must live <b>more than 1.5 miles</b> from your campus and use available discounts (distance checked via Google maps walking route)</p>
Payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paid to your bank account or credited to college account depending on the item. Full details on the award letter</li> <li>• Travel normally paid in 10 monthly instalments over the academic year.</li> </ul>
Additional Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payment based on 85% attendance at college or at work placements and appropriate behaviour</li> <li>• Payments may be reduced or withheld if attendance falls</li> </ul>
How do I apply?	<p>Apply online <b>from 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026</b> at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://escg.paymystudent.com/portal/">https://escg.paymystudent.com/portal/</a> or</li> <li>• Click the link on our website <a href="http://www.escg.ac.uk">www.escg.ac.uk</a></li> </ul> <p>You will receive an email decision or request for more information</p>

## Care to Learn

Eligibility	<p>You may to eligible if you are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under 20 years old on the first day of your course</li> <li>• The main carer for your child</li> <li>• Living and studying in England</li> <li>• Studying an eligible course</li> <li>• Using an eligible Childcare provider that is OFSTED registered</li> </ul> <p>If you have more than one child, you can get help for each of them Other T &amp; Cs may apply</p>
Amount of award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to £180 per child per week (if you live outside London)</li> </ul>
What the fund can help with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childcare while you study, attend placements and work experience that are part of your programme of study or carry out agreed study activities</li> <li>• Deposit and registration fees (T &amp; Cs apply)</li> <li>• Summer retainer (if returning to college the next academic year to study an eligible FE course. (T &amp; Cs apply)</li> <li>• Support with additional travel costs to take your child from home to the childcare provider</li> </ul>
Payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childcare costs paid monthly direct to childcare provider on receipt of invoice</li> </ul>
Additional Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payment for travel and childcare based on 85% attendance at college or at work placements and appropriate behaviour</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmation from childcare provider that child is attending is required</li> <li>• Payments may be reduced or withheld attendance falls</li> </ul>
How to apply	<p><b>Apply from 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026.</b> Contact the college for the application pack.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You will receive an email decision or request for more information</li> <li>• More information can be found at <a href="https://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn">https://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn</a></li> </ul>

## 19+ Adult Education Bursary (Including 20+ Childcare Support Funding)

Eligibility	<p>You may be eligible if, on <b>31<sup>st</sup> August 2026</b> you are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aged 19 or over</b></li> <li>• Enrolled on an Adult Skills funded course. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ For level 3 courses, student must be 19 – 23 studying their first full level 3 qualification from the list of entitlements, or 19+ studying a level 3 course that is included in the Free Courses for Jobs level 3 adult offer, <b>and earn below</b> the Earnings threshold.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>and</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can demonstrate a <b>financial need</b> to participate in education</li> </ul> <p><b>and either:</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> You receive <b>one or more</b> of the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universal Credit</li> <li>• Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)</li> <li>• Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999</li> <li>• The guarantee element of State Pension Credit</li> </ul> <p><b>and</b> your total household income is no more than £38,500 per year, including earnings and benefits,</p> <p><b>Or</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>B.</b> You have a <b>total household income of £38,500 or less</b> per year, including earned income and benefits.</li> </ul>
Amount of award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awards are based on your individual costs of attending college up to the maximum amount as set out in the policy</li> </ul>
What the fund can help with	<p>Help towards the costs of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel (including work placements)</li> <li>• Compulsory books, equipment, uniforms, materials</li> <li>• Mandatory trips</li> <li>• Childcare costs for the hours you are timetabled to be in College (OFSTED registered only)</li> </ul> <p><b>Travel:</b> you must live <b>more than 1.5 miles</b> from your campus and use available discounts (distance checked via Google maps walking route)</p>
Payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paid to your bank account or credited to college account depending on the item. Full details on the award letter</li> <li>• Travel normally paid in 6 instalments/ twice per term</li> <li>• Childcare costs paid monthly direct to childcare provider on receipt of invoice</li> </ul>
Additional Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payment based on 85% attendance at college or at work placements and appropriate behaviour</li> <li>• Payments may be reduced or withheld if attendance falls</li> </ul>
How to apply	<p>Apply online <b>from 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026</b> at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://escg.paymystudent.com/portal/">https://escg.paymystudent.com/portal/</a> or</li> <li>• Click the link on our website <a href="http://www.escg.ac.uk">www.escg.ac.uk</a></li> </ul> <p>You will receive an email decision or request for more information</p>

## Advanced Learner Loan Bursary

Eligibility	<p>You may be eligible if, on <b>31<sup>st</sup> August 2026</b> you are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aged 19 and over,</b></li> <li>• Studying a <b>funded qualification up to Level 3 (Ofqual-accredited)</b></li> <li>• In receipt of an <b>approved Advanced Learner Loan</b> for your course.</li> </ul> <p><b>and</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can demonstrate a <b>financial need</b> to participate in education</li> </ul> <p><b>and either:</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> You receive <b>one or more</b> of the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universal Credit</li> <li>• Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)</li> <li>• Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999</li> <li>• The guarantee element of State Pension Credit</li> </ul> <p><b>and</b> your total household income is no more than £38,500 per year, including earnings and benefits,</p> <p><b>Or</b></p> <p><b>B.</b> You have a <b>total household income of £38,500 or less</b> per year, including earned income and benefits.</p>
Amount of award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awards are based on your individual costs of attending college up to the maximum amount as set out in the policy</li> </ul>
What the fund can help with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support students towards the cost of travel, compulsory books, equipment, uniforms, compulsory visits, and materials.</li> <li>• To help with the cost of Childcare for the hours you are timetabled to be in College (must be OFSTED registered)</li> </ul> <p><b>Travel:</b> you must live <b>more than 1.5 miles</b> from your campus and use available discounts (distance checked via Google maps walking route)</p>
Payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payments direct to student's bank account or credit to college account where applicable. Full details will be on the award letter</li> <li>• Travel is usually paid in 6 instalments/twice per term</li> <li>• Childcare paid monthly direct to childcare provider on receipt of invoice</li> </ul>
Additional Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payment based on 85% attendance at college or at work placements and appropriate behaviour</li> <li>• Payments may be reduced or withheld if attendance falls</li> </ul>
How to apply	<p>Apply online <b>from 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026</b> at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://escg.paymystudent.com/portal/">https://escg.paymystudent.com/portal/</a> or</li> <li>• Click the link on our website <a href="http://www.escg.ac.uk">www.escg.ac.uk</a></li> </ul> <p>You will receive an email decision or request for more information</p>