



THE  
**BEDFORD**  
COLLEGE  
GROUP

# FINANCIAL SUPPORT



# FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AGED 16-19

The Bedford College Group offers a range of financial support through our 16-19 bursaries to help young people where household income is £40,000 or less. Students must be aged 16-18 on 31 August 2024 or aged 19 and on the second year of a two-year course.

Funding is provided by the government and enables the Group to make discretionary awards to those young people assessed as facing the greatest financial barriers to participation in their college study programme.

The bursary offers support through the following strands:

## Course Costs Bursary

Some courses have essential costs for books, materials, equipment or uniform. Where these costs present a barrier to participation in learning, we offer a discretionary bursary of up to 75% of costs, subject to a household income of £40,000 or less.

**PLEASE NOTE:** students on second year of a two-year course will not be eligible for this unless specific costs are specified for the second year.

## Meals Bursary

The Meals Bursary entitles eligible students who qualify for the Vulnerable Learner Bursary or those whose parents are in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits listed below. Students will receive £5 a day towards the cost of a meal on the days they attend College or an activity that is part of their course (i.e. industry placements). Qualifying benefits are:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers 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 (provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC))
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after someone stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit with net earnings not exceeding the equivalent of £7,400 per annum (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Aged 19-24 with a valid EHCP and qualifying benefit

If you were in receipt of free school meals, we can carry this support forward to your further education studies. Please apply for a bursary so we can make this award.

## Travel Bursary

The Travel Bursary is a means tested bursary of up to £720 available to students studying a full-time study programme (Level 3 or below) who:

- Are aged 16-18 on 31 August 2024 or aged 19 and on the second year of a two-year study programme
- Live more than three miles walking distance from the campus you will be studying at
- Are not eligible for financial support for travel from your Local Authority

For students using the Shuttleworth bus, the award will be used to pay towards the cost of the bus pass. Students attending extended work placements as part of their course can apply for a travel bursary if not already covered by their travel bursary or bus pass.

## Loan Equipment

The College operates a loan laptop scheme for students who have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study). The laptop remains the property of the College and must be returned when the student completes their study programme.

## Vulnerable Learner Bursary

**Students aged 16-18 could get up to £1,200 if at least one of the following applies:**

- You're in or recently left Local Authority care
- You get Income Support or Universal Credit because you are financially supporting yourself
- You are in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit as well as Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment (PIP) in your own name

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

- You will be asked for documentation to evidence your individual circumstances e.g. tenancy agreement, child benefit letter, Social Worker letter, etc

## Discretionary Hardship

If you are experiencing a sudden change of circumstances which places you in hardship, please speak to your Learning Mentor or a member of the Student Services team.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Applications for Course Cost, Travel and Vulnerable Learner bursaries are considered as a priority and are normally processed first. We expect our students to attend all their classes, however if attendance falls below 90%, your bursary payments may be affected.

# FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ADULTS (19 +)

The Bedford College Group offers a range of financial support schemes for students aged 19 or over on 31 August 2024 studying on either an ESFA or Advanced Learner Loans funded course. Students aged 19 on the second year of a two-year study programme need to apply to the 16-19 bursaries.

Our adult support fund is for course-related costs and is dependent on household income of £45,000 or less.

The bursary offers support in the following strands:

## Course Costs Bursary

Students may receive a discretionary bursary to help with up to 75% of the costs of essential course items such as books, equipment and trips, subject to a household income of £45,000 or less.

Where the essential course item is provided by The Bedford College Group, the award will be transferred internally to the departments and the student will be expected to pay the difference. This is not available to students on the second year of a two-year course unless essential costs are specified for the second year.

## Meals Bursary

If you qualify for the Adult Support bursary, the College will award you a meals bursary of £5 per day on the days you are timetabled to be in College.

## Travel Bursary

The Travel Bursary is a means tested bursary of up to £950 for students on ESFA funded courses who:

- Live more than three miles walking distance from the campus you will be studying at
- Are not eligible for financial support for travel from your Local Authority.

**PLEASE NOTE:** we are unable to pay parking costs and will only support travel costs during term time. The amount you will be awarded will be based on the distance you live from your prime study location.

## Loan Equipment

The College operates a loan laptop scheme for students who have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study). The laptop remains the property of the College and must be returned when the student completes their study programme.

## Additional Learning Support (for Advanced Learner Loan students only)

We offer up to £250 towards any learning support requirements for students who have indicated a form of learning difficulty or disability. Access to this support will be through the Additional Support Team at your campus.

## Tuition, Exams and Professional Fees

This is available to students who have been assessed as co-funded only. Please speak to an Adviser for more details on eligibility.

## Childcare Bursary

Childcare funding is only available for students aged 20+ to pay a contribution towards the cost of a registered childminder, nursery or pre/after school club. The childcare provider must be OFSTED registered.

The Childcare Bursary will be paid in 10 monthly instalments starting from October 2024; these payments will be made in arrears once we have confirmation of students' attendance.\*

If you are eligible for 2, 3 and 4 year old funding, childcare will only be supported where the student's timetable exceeds the number of government funded hours.

More information can be found at [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

*\*The total award for all categories is limited to a maximum of 80% of the income the College receives towards your tuition fees.*

## Discretionary Hardship

If you are experiencing a sudden change of circumstances which places you in hardship, please speak to your Tutor or a member of the Student Services team.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Applications for Course Cost, Travel and Vulnerable Learner bursaries are considered as a priority and are normally processed first.

If you have previously been a recipient of the Vulnerable Learner Bursary or have experienced an unexpected change of circumstances, please drop into Student Services or speak to your Tutor to see if there is any financial support available to support you in finishing your studies.

We expect our students to attend all their classes, however if attendance falls below 90%, your bursary payments may be affected.

## OTHER SOURCES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

For further details of other sources of financial support, please contact the Student Services team.

### Residential

You can apply for support towards the costs of accommodation at Shuttleworth College and the National College for Motorsport through the 16-19 and Adult bursaries. Income thresholds will apply and are only available to eligible students. Priority will then be given to students who live the furthest from the Shuttleworth and Motorsport campuses with poor or no transport links. Please note, you will need to complete an additional residential form for the National College for Motorsport.

### Care to Learn

If you're a parent aged 16-19 the Government's Care to Learn scheme could pay up to £180 per child per week towards your childcare and travel costs whilst you study. If you require help with childcare costs you should apply online [www.gov.uk/care-tolearn](http://www.gov.uk/care-tolearn)

### The Grand Prix Bursary

The Grand Prix Bursary provides a non-means tested bursary to students who are studying at the National College for Motorsport.

### Connolly Foundation

The Connolly Foundation provide non-means-tested bursaries to students living in the Bedford Borough for apprentices on specified apprenticeship programmes such as Electrical, Engineering, Construction and Plumbing, as well Health and Social Care students studying on a T-Level programme.

### Brunel Centre of Bedford Bursary

Bedford Training Group provide bursaries to students living in the Bedford Borough studying on our Engineering programmes.

### The Bedford College Academic Excellence Bursary (Bedford and Corby Sixth Form only)

A non means-tested bursary is available to all new students to the Bedford and Corby Sixth Form who meet the criteria, starting their course in September 2024.

Students must:

- Have achieved five GCSEs with grades 9 – 7, including English Language and Mathematics
- Have applied for a full-time place as a student at The Bedford or Corby Sixth Form
- Have submitted a complete application via our online portal before 30 September of the first academic year studying at Bedford or Corby Sixth Form.

We expect our students to attend all their classes, however if attendance falls below 95%, your bursary payments may be affected.

**BEDFORD  
COLLEGE**

**For more information on our bursaries, please contact us using the details below:**

**Bedford College**

01234 291770

studentservices@bedford.ac.uk

**The Bedford Sixth Form**

01234 291444

studentservices@bedfordsixthform.ac.uk

**Central Bedfordshire College**

01582 349626

studentservicescbc@bedford.ac.uk

**Shuttleworth College**

01767 626232

studentservicesshuttleworth@bedford.ac.uk

**Tresham College inc. NC4M & The Corby Sixth Form**

01536 413232

studentservices@tresham.ac.uk

**External Sources of Support**

**Grants search tool**

[www.turn2us.org.uk](http://www.turn2us.org.uk)

**Benefits search website**

[www.entitledto.co.uk](http://www.entitledto.co.uk)

**Student Services**

[yourspaceonline.net](http://yourspaceonline.net)



tbcgstudentservices



tbcgstudentservices



THE  
BEDFORD  
COLLEGE  
GROUP



QAA

UK Quality Assured



European Union  
European  
Social Fund