

# Financial Support – Applying for the 16-19 Bursary



## What is the 16-19 Bursary?

The 16 – 19 Bursary Fund is a government funded scheme designed to help support those young people who face the greatest financial barriers to continuing in education or training post-16.

Individual schools and colleges are able to decide their own assessment and award criteria within broad guidelines set out by the government. The main restriction is that the funds must be used to assist with costs directly associated with education within Sixth Form and cannot be used to support a student's general living costs. We receive a fixed sum of money each year to allocate to students which means that the amount of financial support an individual student receives may vary from year to year depending on the number of qualifying applications that are received.

## Who is eligible to apply?

Bursaries fall into two categories:

- 1. Vulnerable Bursary** – available to students who fall into a category defined as vulnerable.
- 2. Discretionary Bursaries** – available to students who fall below a household income threshold.

Type of Bursary	Criteria
Vulnerable Bursary	<p>Students who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In Care</li><li>• A care leaver</li><li>• Receiving Income Support or Universal Credit because they are financially independent</li><li>• Receiving Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independent Payments and receiving Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit</li></ul> <p>Evidence will be required and should be attached to the application.</p>
Discretionary Bursary	<p>Students who live in a household where the total gross annual taxable income is <b>£25,000</b> or less.</p> <p>Evidence of total household income will be required and should be attached to the application, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Universal Credit</li><li>• Income based Jobseekers' Allowance</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 the State Pension Credit</li><li>• Child Tax Credit</li><li>• Working Tax Credit</li><li>• 3 months most recent payslips</li></ul>

## How do I apply for a Bursary?

Applications should be made using the 2024-25 bursary application form which is available here. All applications should include the relevant evidence.

Paper copies of the application form are also available from the Sixth Form Office on the ground floor of the Sixth Form.

Once complete, application forms should be handed into Mrs Callander in the Sixth Form Office or emailed to [ccallander@combertonvc.org](mailto:ccallander@combertonvc.org)

## When do I apply?

**Year 12** - Students can apply once officially enrolled after GCSE results are released in August.

**Year 13** – Student can apply once they return for the new year in September.

The deadline for applications to be received is **Monday 22nd September**.

After this time, students can apply if they are able to demonstrate a significant change in financial circumstances, subject to funds still being available.

## What can a Bursary help pay for?

The 16-19 Bursary is designed to help students meet the costs associated with their post-16 study, including:

- Transport between their home and sixth form.
- Course specific equipment
- The cost of trips and visits which are deemed essential to their course.
- Printing and essential books.

Students who are applying for the discretionary bursary and qualify for Free School Meals, should apply to the County Council for a subsidised bus pass for help with transport costs - [Post-16 transport \(mainstream\) | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

## How much will I receive?

### 1. Vulnerable Bursary

Students who qualify for the Vulnerable Bursary can receive up to a maximum of £1,200 per year of study, based on an assessment of the financial support required.

### 2. Discretionary Bursary

The amount paid to students qualifying for the Discretionary Bursary can vary from year to year depending on the amount of funding the college receives and the number of applicants. After the application deadline has passed, an assessment of demand will be made and the funds will be allocated as fairly as possible using a three tier approach:

- Tier 1 – Students in receipt of Free School Meals
- Tier 2 – Students with a household income under £20,000.
- Tier 3 – Students with a household income between £20,000 - £25,000

## What happens next?

Once the application deadline has passed, and we have assessed each application, we will be in touch to confirm if students have qualified for financial support and the amount we are able to award.

## What other financial support is available?

**Free School Meals** – Information on eligibility is available here: [Free school meals | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

**Post-16 Subsidised Transport** – information on eligibility is available here: [Post-16 transport \(mainstream\) | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

## Who can I contact if I have questions or need help?

Mrs Callander administers our Bursary applications and can help if you need any advice or support. She can be contacted at [ccallander@combertonvc.org](mailto:ccallander@combertonvc.org) or found in the Sixth Form Office on the ground floor of the Sixth Form.