

19+ Student Financial Support Policy 2019/2020

Scope

This policy applies to students aged 19 or over on 31st August 2019 studying towards Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) or Adult Education Budget (AEB) funded further education qualifications that also qualify for bursary support based on funding body criteria.

Policy context

Vision West Nottinghamshire College policy is to follow the policy guidelines of the ESFA AEB and openly, fairly and transparently apply the rules set by these government funding agencies.

These funds are managed by the College and are allocated on a first come, first served basis via an application and assessment process. Students must meet the specified eligibility criteria in order to be considered for any assistance. The rules within this policy are set out at the time of writing and could be subject to change at any time from the ESFA AEB.

Financial support is intended to remove barriers and support participation, attendance and achievement.

Applications received by the Student Financial Support Team will be processed within six weeks of enrolment. Any applications received prior to this will not be processed until after the student has enrolled. Applicants will be notified of their application outcome by post.

Overview of funding available

	19+ Student Support Fund	Free College Meals
Help available:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bursary payment of £50 per month – based on attendance• Free College Bus• Childcare funding/Care to Learn• Help with placement travel costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aged 19 to 24 with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) and student or parent/carer being in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits

19+ Student Support Fund for full-time students

To qualify for the bursary support you must have an annual gross household income of below £25,000 or below £30,000 with three or more dependent children, aged up to 19 and in full time education or below school age living in the household. Discretion may be given in extenuating circumstances.

Students living at home with parent/carers can be classed as independent if they can show a gross earned income of £4602.00 or above during the 2018/2019 tax year. If their income is below this amount they will be assessed based on their parent/carer's income.

For all applications funding is limited; therefore evidence of eligibility does not guarantee an award. Student's wishing to apply for financial support should do so as soon as possible from the start of their course.

- This bursary is available for students where their course is not eligible for an Advanced Learner Loan.
- £50.00 BACS monthly payment for full-time students, paid to Student bank account. Payment dates published and available to all students.
- Part-time students will be case assessed at our discretion and may be awarded based on individual circumstances and specific need.
- Students can request that any support approved be used to clear any remaining outstanding course fee balance. If the student withdraws from their course before the completion date, they may be asked to repay all or part of this money back to college.
- In exceptional circumstances additional funds may be paid towards transport at our discretion. This will be case assessed, by the Head of Student Support, and based on individual circumstances.
- 100% support with transport for timetabled placement days. Students must provide a copy of their signed placement log to the student finance team for payment along with bus ticket.

Full monthly payment is made if attendance is 90% or above. If attendance falls below 70% no payment is made. Attendance between 70% and 90% the student will receive that percentage of payment.

- In exceptional circumstances additional funds may be paid towards 50% of curriculum based trips. Maximum funding available per year is £250.00. This will be case assessed, by the Head of Student Support, and based on individual circumstances.
- UK University interview travel costs – 50% of the total travel costs reimbursement with receipts. Public transport costs only.
- Exams – Pay 100% of exam resit cost for students in receipt of a bursary

All above payments will be awarded based on 80% attendance rate except exam resit support which will have no attendance threshold.

20+ Childcare Fund

- Up to £160.00 per week per child in Ofsted registered childcare. Funding available for a maximum of two children aged 5 or under on 31 August 2019. This is only to be used for timetabled days in college plus 30minutes travelling time before and after college hours.
- If the child is eligible for 15 or 30 hours per week free early education, these **must** be used to cover your required sessions; you may then apply for additional cover, if required.
- Support with childcare costs for part-time students will be case assessed at our discretion and may be awarded based on individual circumstances and specific need.

Full monthly payment is made to the childcare provider if attendance is 90% or above. Attendance will be monitored monthly and if it falls below 90% payment may be withheld, however, individual cases will be assessed at our discretion and may be awarded based on individual circumstances and specific need.

It is a learner's responsibility to tell the Department for Work and Pensions about any financial support we may provide, as learner support payments may affect your eligibility to state benefits.

Payment dates

Advanced Learner Loan Bursary	
04/10/2019	06/03/2020
08/11/2019	09/04/2020
06/12/2019	11/05/2020
10/01/2020	05/06/2020
07/02/2020	03/07/2020

Appeals/Complaints procedure

Any disagreement with a decision made by the Student Financial Support Team in relation to an application should be made in writing to the Student Welfare Manager, Vision West Nottinghamshire College, Derby Road, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG18 5BH.

Student Financial Support Team

Room 101d

Derby Road

Mansfield

Nottinghamshire

NG18 5BH

Telephone: 01623 627191 Ext 8179

Email: StudentFinancialSupport@wnc.ac.uk