

19+ Financial Support Policy (FE students)

Date approved: 22 August 2025

Approved by: SMT

Responsible Manager (s): Director of Registry

Executive Lead: Chief Operating Officer

Applicable to staff:	Yes
Applicable to students:	Yes
Accessible to students:	Yes
Accessible to general public: (including clients)	Yes

Consultation

Consultation undertaken with:

- SMT: 22 August 2025
- AMT: 12 August 2025
- Students:

Policy review frequency; normally annually

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1. Scope and purpose of policy

1.1 This policy and procedure applies to students who are aged 19+ as of 31 August 2025. This policy demonstrates how B&FC administers funds in accordance with regulatory guidelines.

The scope of this policy does not extend to apprentices. For apprentices who are Care Leavers, (strict definitions apply) applications may be considered through [Apprenticeships bursary for care leavers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apprenticeships-bursary-for-care-leavers)

2. Policy statement

2.1 The 19+ Bursary Fund provides financial support to help students overcome specific barriers to participation so they can access and remain in education.

2.2 B&FC's policy on financial support funds follows the rules laid down by the regulator, Department for Education (DFE).

2.3 All support is subject to available funds. Government funding rules can change at any time, this policy is subject to annual review or sooner if required.

3. Procedure

3.1 The application process is identified in Appendix A

3.2 The eligibility criteria and types of support are identified in Appendix B

4. Accountability

4.1 The Director of Registry is responsible for ensuring this policy is accessible and current.

4.2 If a student has a particular barrier to learning and requires financial support for something not listed in Appendix A, they should apply for funding through the Barriers to Learning Scheme.

5. Student Involvement

5.1 The Student Union and elected representatives were consulted in the formation of this policy.

6. Linked policies

- 16-19 Financial Support Policy (student)
- Advanced Learner Loan Financial Support Policy (student)
- Financial Support Appeals Policy and Procedure (student and apprentice)

7. Linked procedures

- N/A

Appendix A

- How to apply: All applications to be submitted through: Pay My Student
- for help and support : <https://www.blackpool.ac.uk/financial-support-16-18s> Or email FinanceSupport@blackpool.ac.uk

Appendix B

Eligibility and types of support:

- To be eligible student must be:
- 19+ as of 31 August 2025
- To receive financial support students will normally have a minimum attendance of 90%
- This funding is restricted, based on need and eligibility, and cannot be guaranteed

Applications from people who are not UK citizens, and/or have not lived in the UK for 3 years at their study start date, will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

You will not receive a 19+ Bursary award from B&FC if:

- You are under 19 years old on 31 August,
- If you have any outstanding debts to the College
- You are planning to enrol on a course that does not receive government funding
- You are receiving funding for a Higher Education course
- You are on an Apprenticeship
- You are an offender who is released to study on a temporary licence.

Type of Support	What students may be eligible for	Eligibility requirements
Discretionary Bursary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Blackpool Transport (BT) on BT bus / tram or travel bursary for those living 1.5miles from main campus of study. • A Travel Bursary of £63 per month if student lives outside BT transport area, (provided instead of a bus pass, paid in arrears based usually on 90% attendance.) • Taxi support based on medical evidence. • Free bus covering travel from Poulton Le Fylde to Bispham campus, this is available to all students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household income of less than £35,000 per year evidenced by eligible benefit proof or proof of parent/carer income for 2025/26 (exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis Head of MI&F) • B&FC may consider applications for a taxi where evidence is provided through their latest disability benefit letter and household. • Normally minimum attendance of 90%.

Free meal (s)

- Free daily digital voucher (hard copy by exception) redeemable at internal food outlets, and in some cases in nominated external retail outlets.

Threshold 1

~~The student provides a UC award statement from their most recent complete assessment period, showing that earnings in that period do not exceed £616.67 (this is a twelfth of an equivalent annual income of £7,400). If their earnings do not exceed £616.67, they are eligible for free meals. If their earnings do exceed £616.67, the check must move on to the next step.~~

Threshold 2

~~The student provides UC award statements from their 2 most recent complete assessment periods, showing that their earnings in that period do not exceed £1,233.34 (this is a sixth of an equivalent annual income of £7,400). If their earnings do not exceed £1,233.34, they are eligible for free meals. If their earnings do exceed £1,233.34, the check must move on to the next step.~~

Threshold 3

~~The student provides UC award statements from their 3 most recent complete assessment periods, showing that their earnings in that period do not exceed £1,850.00 (this is a quarter of an equivalent annual income of £7,400). If their earnings do not exceed £1,850.00, they are eligible for free meals. If their earnings do exceed £1,850.00, the student is not eligible for free meals.~~

**DFE Guidance Free meals in FE Funded Institutions Guide: 2025-26*

- Household income of less than £35,000 per year evidenced by eligible benefit proof, or proof of parent/carer income for 2025/26 (Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis Head of MI&F)

Removing Barriers Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial or other support to remove barriers associated with course related costs and expenses, this can include learning technology. This is awarded on a case-by-case basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household income to meet the threshold identified in this policy (£35,000).
Child Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support with childcare costs where the student is 20 yrs. or older at the start of their course, and is at risk of not starting or continuing because of childcare costs. Students need to use their free child care hours first before we can support with additional costs. If the student is under 20 years, they can apply for Care to Learn Care to Learn: Overview GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household income to meet the threshold and evidence requirements as identified above (£35,000). Childcare funding can only be paid to Ofsted registered provider. <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>

Hardship Bursary	<p>You can use hardship funds for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> course-related costs, including course trips, books and equipment (where costs are not included in the course fees.) support with domestic emergencies and emergency accommodation if this is a barrier to staying in learning. (This can be in the form of a grant or repayable loan provided by the college.) transport costs (see also Discretionary Bursary) examination fees accreditation fees, professional membership fees and any fees or charges due to external bodies registration fees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household income of less than £35,000 per year evidenced by eligible benefit proof, or proof of parent/carer income for 2025/26 (Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis Head of MI&F)
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Impact Assessment for the 4 strands of Equality, Safeguarding, Health and safety and Sustainability

Initial Form to be completed with Risk Assessments or as part of a proposal or change to a policy, plan or new way of working

Title of Activity: 19+ Financial Support Policy (student)	<input type="checkbox"/> New or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revision
Name and title of proposer: Will Jerram - Director of Registry	<i>(tick as appropriate)</i>

Equality and Diversity.

Are there students, apprentices, other customers, community/stakeholders, and/or colleague concerns that the proposed policy, project or change may be discriminatory or have an adverse impact on people with protected characteristics?

A	Students/Apps/Customers	No	If so, how many individuals / which groups of are likely to be affected?
B	Community/stakeholders	No	
C	Colleague	No	

Equality group	Positive impact High Low None	Negative impact High Low None	Reason / comments for positive impact why it could benefit any /all of the equality groups	Reason /comments for negative impact /what could disadvantage any/ all of the equality groups
Sex	High	None	This policy is inclusive irrespective of sex	
Gender reassignment (Male/female/Non-binary/Transgender)	High	None	This policy is inclusive irrespective of gender reassignment	
Age	High	None	This applies to eligible candidates 19 +	Any age-related negative impacts are mitigated by 16-19 and Advanced Learner Loan policies.
Race or ethnicity	High	None	Inclusive irrespective of race or ethnicity	
(Disability) Learning difference	High	None	Fully inclusive irrespective of difference	
(Disability) Physical and/or sensory	High	None	Fully inclusive irrespective of disability – support from SSWI if required	
(Disability) Mental health need	High	None	Fully inclusive irrespective of disability – support from SSWI if required	
Sexual Orientation	High	None	Fully inclusive irrespective of sex	
Religion and Belief	High	None	Fully inclusive irrespective of religion or belief	
Marriage and civil partnership	High	None	Fully inclusive irrespective of status	
Pregnancy and maternity	High	None	Fully inclusive irrespective of status	
Carers/care experienced	High	None	Fully Inclusive irrespective of status	
Socio Economic deprivation indicators	High	None	Fully supportive of closing economic barriers and deprivation gaps.	

What changes or actions do you recommend to improve the service, project, policy, or change to eradicate or minimise the negative impacts identified? **None identified**
 Who will be responsible for monitoring these actions?

Have students, apprentices/other customers, communities and/or colleagues been consulted in the review / proposed change?

A	Students/Apps/Customers	Yes
B	Community	No
C	Colleague	Yes
	If yes, who and how many have you involved and how have they been involved?	AMT/CCMT/ SU/ SMT

Safeguarding: Are there any aspects of this proposal which could cause a Student/member of staff/visitor to feel unsafe? No

Health and Safety: Have any risks been identified? No

Sustainability: Are there expected benefits or impacts on sustainability issues No

Evidence: What evidence do you have for your conclusions and expectations for these conclusions? How will this impact be monitored for all these considerations? Data from previous years

Is this policy of a high/medium or low risk?: High Medium Low

