

16-19 FINANCIAL SUPPORT POLICY 2019/20

Date approved: 14 June 2019
 Approved by: SMT
 Responsible Manager (s): Director for Students
 Executive Lead: Vice Principal Higher Education and Student Enhancement

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

Consultation

Consultation undertaken with: Date:

- | | | |
|--|---------|---------|
| • SMT | Yes/No* | 14.6.19 |
| • AMT | Yes/No* | 21.5.19 |
| • CCMT | Yes/No* | 24.5.19 |
| • Students | Yes/No* | 10.4.19 |
| • Employee representatives (<i>HR policies only</i>) | NA* | |
| • Other | NA* | |

Policy review frequency, normally: **annually**

Contents

1. Scope and purpose of the policy
2. Policy statement
3. Accountability
4. Student involvement
5. Linked policies
6. Linked procedures
7. Equality Impact Assessment

1. Scope and purpose of policy

This policy applies to students who are aged 16 or over but under 19 as of 31.09.19. Students aged 19 to 24 with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and 19 plus students who are continuing on the same qualification and study programme which they started when they were 16-18 (19+ continuers) are also eligible. All students must be taking part in a full-time course that is funded directly by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), a course funded or co-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) or a 16-19 traineeship programme. Students must also meet residency criteria set out in the ESFA Funding regulations. Students should apply as early as possible as funding is allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. Funding should not be assumed and cannot be guaranteed.

Blackpool and The Fylde College (B&FC) complies with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 when setting the criteria for financial support and do not discriminate against students, either directly or indirectly, because of their protected characteristics.

The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate how the College meets the requirements of the 16-19 Bursary Fund and how this funding is used to support eligible students.

2. Policy statement

The 16 -19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to help students overcome specific barriers to participation so they can access and remain in education. This policy demonstrates how the College works within ESFA guidelines to administer funds from the 16-19 Bursary Funds to support eligible students. To receive the bursary students will normally have a minimum of 90% attendance.

The support for eligible students is set out below:

| Type of support | What students may be eligible for | Eligibility requirements |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Discretionary Student Support | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Free Blackpool Transport smart card for unlimited travel on any Blackpool Transport bus or tram for students who live 1.5 miles away or more from the campus which they attend. | Household income less than £30,810 per year as evidenced by eligible benefit evidence or proof of parent/carer income for 2018/19 Exceptions can be considered on a case by case basis by the Chief Operating Officer |

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A travel bursary of £60 per month if student lives outside of the Blackpool Transport area • A free dedicated college bus covering travel from Poulton-le-Fylde to Bispham on a circular route. This resource is available to all students. • Taxi support | <p>If a student is unable to use public transport as a result of a learning difficulty or disability, they may be eligible for support via their Local Authority in the first instance. B&FC can consider applications for taxi support where there is evidence of the student's disability ie their latest disability benefit letter and evidence that household income is less than £30,810</p> |
| Free Meals | A free daily lunch at College | <p>Specific benefit evidence as set out by the government to show unemployment or very low household income.</p> <p>For the criteria please see the direct.gov website here</p> |
| Guaranteed Bursary | <p>Up to £1,200 of support that can be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free meals • A bursary paid every two weeks • A Blackpool Transport smart card | <p>The bursary may be reduced or not payable for courses shorter than 30 weeks.</p> <p>Only applies to students aged 16-18</p> <p>For defined vulnerable groups as detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people in care • Care leavers • Receiving Income Support or Universal Credit because they are financially supporting themselves |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receiving Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments in their own right as well as Employment and Support Allowance or the equivalent Universal Credit in their own right • Unaccompanied asylum seeking children are treated as looked after children and classed as being 'in care' |
| ESFA Funded Childcare (Care to Learn) | Help with the cost of childcare up to a maximum of £160 per child per week. Students must be aged under 20 at the start of their course | Must be on a publicly funded course. Apply online at https://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn |
| Residential Support Scheme | Help towards the cost of accommodation | Eligibility rules apply which can be found at https://www.gov.uk/residential-support-scheme/residential-support-scheme The course must be more than either 15 miles away or a 2 hour round trip from home and not be available locally. |

3. Accountability

The Director for Students is responsible for ensuring this policy is accessible and current

3. Student Involvement

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

4. Linked policies

- 19+ ESFA Financial Support Policy 2019/20
- Advanced Learner Loan Financial Support Policy 2019/20

5. Linked procedures

NA

Equality Impact Assessment

| 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 | |
| <p>Title of Activity: 16-19 Financial Support Policy</p> <p>Author and Date: Director for Students, April 2019</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> New or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revision Please tick as appropriate</p> <p>Expected Implementation Date: June 2019</p> <p>What is the review date? May 2020</p> |
| <p>Equality and Diversity. Which of the characteristics maybe impacted upon? And, if yes, how has this been considered? What are the risks? What are the benefits?</p> | |
| <p>Safeguarding: Are there any aspects of this proposal which could cause a learner/member of staff/visitor to feel unsafe? If yes, how has this been considered? What are the risks? What are the benefits?</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> |
| <p>Health and Safety: Have any risks been identified? If yes, how has this been considered? What are the risks? What are the benefits?</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> |
| <p>Sustainability: Are there expected benefits or impacts on sustainability issues? If yes, how have these been considered?</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> |
| <p>Evidence: What evidence do you have for your conclusions and expectations for these conclusions? How will this impact be monitored for all these considerations?</p> | |
| <p>Is this policy of a high/medium or low risk? :</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low</p> |