

ADVANCED LEARNER LOAN 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

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1. Scope and purpose of policy

This policy applies to students who are aged 19 or over as of 31 August 2019 who have an Advanced Learner Loan (ALL) approved by the Student Loans Company (SLC) and who have a need which has been assessed by Blackpool and The Fylde College (B&FC).

Students aged 19 to 24 with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and students who are continuing on the same study programme they started when they were 16-18 (19+ continuers) should refer to the 16-19 Bursary Fund Financial Support Policy 2019/20. Students who are aged 19 or over and on a course directly funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) should refer to the 19+ ESFA Financial Support Policy 2019/20.

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 ESFA and demonstrates how the funding provided from the Advanced Learner Loan Bursary Fund is used to support eligible students.

2. Policy statement

The ESFA Advanced Learner Loan Bursary Fund provides financial support for vulnerable and disadvantaged students to 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 to support eligible students. To receive the bursary students will normally have a minimum of 90% attendance.

The support for eligible students is outlined below:

Type of support	What students can get	Eligibility requirements
Travel 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 £25,000 per year as evidenced by eligible benefit or proof of income for 2019/20 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 latest disability benefit letter and evidence that household income is less than the threshold specified above.</p>
Course Related Bursary	A monthly (during term-time only) bursary to help with course related costs and expenses	Household income must meet the threshold specified above.
Childcare	<p>Age 20 or over on the first day of their course who are at risk of not starting or continuing learning because of childcare costs. Students can apply for help with the cost of childcare for College hours and essential placements.</p> <p>If aged under 20 at the start of their course. ESFA</p>	Apply directly to B&FC. Household income must meet the threshold specified above. Childcare funding can only be paid to Ofsted registered provision and any free hours that the student is eligible for must be used for College hours in the first instance.

	funded Care to Learn – help with the cost of childcare up to a maximum of £160 per child per week.	Must be on a publicly funded course. Apply online at https://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn
Residential Funding	Contribution towards accommodation for eligible students who are studying specialist provision and need to live away from home	Help with the costs of accommodation if you study away from home because the course is not available in your local area and you are studying towards any loan funded course. Household income must also be below the threshold above.

3. Accountability

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

4. Student Involvement

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

5. Linked policies

- 16-19 Bursary Fund Financial Support Policy 2019/20
- 19+ ESFA Financial Support Policy 2019/20.

6. Linked procedures

N/A

7. 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: Advanced Learner Loan 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: May 2019 What is the review date? April 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>