

B&FC Higher Education Bursary Schemes – 2018/19

In 2018/19 you may be eligible to receive a Bursary or Scholarship if you become a new full-time level 4 or above student on an undergraduate Higher Education programme.

There are two financial support schemes available in 2018/19 to support student success:

1. **The B&FC Advantage Bursary** is a means tested bursary and is designed to help with the costs of equipment associated with studying to the value of £500. You may be eligible if you are a new full-time level 4 UK home student or EU national and have been living permanently in the UK for the last 5 years (undergraduate students only). There are a limited number available, therefore eligibility will be assessed using data supplied by Student Finance England. This will only be awarded in the first year of study and in 2 payments per year of £250.
2. **The B&FC Access Scholarship** is guaranteed for all Care Leavers* and Young Carers** to the value of £1000 per year of study, to a maximum of 3 years and in 2 payments per year of £500. If you are studying part-time, the amount will be paid pro rata and you must be studying a minimum of 25% of the full-time course each year. The scholarship is available to new UK home students or EU nationals who have been living permanently in the UK for the last 5 years. The award will not be available if you are repeating a study year or doing a placement year.

How to Apply

1. You must apply for income-assessed financial help through [Student Finance England](https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance) at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance> and you must ensure that they make a decision based upon your **total household income**.
2. Student Finance will ask you if you want to give 'consent to share' your application with the College. Please ensure you tick this box, as the College will not be able to make an assessment for **the Bursary or the Scholarship** if you don't.

If you have already applied to Student Finance, please phone the customer helpline 0300 100 0607 to change the 'consent to share' box.

3. You will also need to complete a **B&FC Advantage Bursary/Access Scholarship application form** which can be found on the College website www.blackpool.ac.uk/bursary
4. Students who meet the criteria for the **B&FC Access Scholarship** can also apply for the **B&FC Advantage Bursary**.
5. For the **B&FC Access Scholarship** only, continuing students will need to complete a Student Finance England application for each year of their course, but they are not required to complete any subsequent **B&FC Access Scholarship** application form.
6. The deadline to submit an application for the **B&FC Advantage Bursary** is 1st September 2018.

Important Information

- Bursaries and Scholarships will be given to students who meet the eligibility criteria at the time of allocation. There are a limited number available so even if you meet the criteria, this does not mean that you are guaranteed to be granted any funding.
- If you defer your place at College for a year, you will be considered for a bursary or scholarship in the year you start your course, not the year you applied.
- Students will receive their **B&FC Advantage Bursary** in 2 separate payments of £250 to a chosen bank account. First payment in November and the second in January.
- Payments would stop if there was an interruption in your study and any remaining payments would be made when you return to College, in line with the payment dates.
- If you withdraw from the programme before receiving the full amount, you will no longer be entitled to any further payments.
- Students in receipt of a Bursary or Scholarship must inform Student Administration if they change their programme of study.
- If a student has been awarded a Bursary or Scholarship and subsequently changes their programme (within the same academic year), and they remain on an eligible programme of study with no break in their studies, their Bursary award will be transferred to their new programme of study.
- If a student changes programme to an ineligible programme of study, they will not receive any further Bursary or Scholarship payments.
- The College reserves the right to withdraw a Bursary or Scholarship from any student who has misled the College about any aspect of their application or eligibility for an award. The College will seek repayment of any monies paid in this instance.
- The College is entitled to recover any material overpayment of Bursary or scholarship made in error.
- The college reserves the right to withhold an awarded Bursary or Scholarship where a student has outstanding debt in relation to course fees with the College.
- If we receive more applications for the Bursary than the number of awards available, your application will be ranked according to:
 - Household income (as provided by the applicant to Student Finance England), firstly if the household income is between £0-£5,000, then between £5,000 and £10,000, then £10,001 to £15,000.
 - If required, a further filter will be on [Polar classification](https://www.hefce.ac.uk/analysis/yp/POLAR/Map,of,young,participation,areas/) with preference to applicants whose home postcode is in an area of lowest participation in HE (QUINTILE 1).
<https://www.hefce.ac.uk/analysis/yp/POLAR/Map,of,young,participation,areas/>

- Eligible applicants who do not receive a B&FC Advantage award due to insufficient numbers of awards can be placed on a waiting list if they wish, to be considered if any allocated Bursaries or spend become available due to non-enrolment or withdrawal of Bursary holders
- The College reserves the right to extend the deadline for consideration of late applications, if any Bursaries or Scholarships remain unallocated.

Payment Schedule

- Students will receive their **B&FC Advantage Bursary** in two equal instalments (November and January) paid directly into your bank or building society account by BACS. Second payment will be paid on or after 1st January 2019.
- Students will receive their **B&FC Access Scholarship** in two equal instalments (November and May) for each year of study, paid directly into a bank or building society account by BACS.

Appeals

- If your application is unsuccessful, you can appeal the decision by writing to the Director of Quality & Standards within 10 working days of the outcome of your application, clearly stating the grounds for appeal.
- Appeals will be considered if there is evidence that an error has been made with the processing of your application.

The College is committed to a fair and clear policy in respect of the Bursary and Scholarship schemes and the way they are awarded and managed. They will review the Bursaries and Scholarships every year which can change but are set at least one year in advance.

* Care Leaver:

- As defined by the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000
- Students will need to provide proof from their Local Authority/Social Worker/Leaving Care Team that they fulfil the criteria.

** Young Carer:

- Someone under age 25 who cares, unpaid, for a family member due to disability, illness, mental health condition or addiction
- Students will need to provide one of the following:
 - A supporting letter from a professional e.g. GP, Practice Manager or Carers Centre Manager
 - A supporting letter from School or College
 - Evidence that you have, are in receipt of Carers Allowance