

16 to 19 Bursary Fund

2025/26 Academic Year

Date of last review	September 2025
Date of next review	September 2026
Review period	Annual
Owner	Business Manager

What Is the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund?

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund is a government-funded scheme intended to help support those young people who face the greatest financial barriers to continuing in education or training after age 16. Individual colleges are free to establish their own assessment and award criteria within broad guidelines set out by the government. The main restriction is that the funds must be used to assist with costs directly associated with attending college and cannot be used to support a student's general living costs.

Colleges receive a fixed sum of money each year to allocate to students, which can mean that the amount of financial support an individual student receives may vary from year to year, depending on the number of qualifying applications received.

Who Qualifies for a Bursary?

Students should be eligible to receive a bursary if they are aged under 19 on 31 August in the academic year in which they start their programme of study and they fall into one or both of the following categories:

- **Vulnerable Bursary:** bursaries for defined vulnerable groups are assessed based on financial need to support participation at the college, such as transport costs, meals, or equipment
- **Discretionary Bursary:** awarded to meet individual needs such as transport costs, meals or equipment and assessed based on household income
- **Discretionary Bursary (trips or laptop only):** this type of bursary may be awarded to students who are just above the bursary limit but have expressed concern regarding their ability to pay for educational trips and visits or provide a laptop for use in college

Vulnerable Bursary

Any student who is:

- in care
- a care leaver
- receiving Income Support, or Universal Credit because they are financially supporting themselves or financially supporting themselves and someone who is dependent on them and living with them, such as a child or partner
- receiving Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments in their own right, as well as Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit in their own right

Discretionary Bursary

A student who lives in a household where the gross annual household income is £36,000 or less may be entitled to assistance from the fund. This income limit does not preclude other students from applying for assistance, as each family's circumstances will be looked at as an individual case.

S6C makes an allowance for the number of children in a household and also removes some benefits from the household income where they do not relate to the student. The amount of bursary provided will be confirmed following the application. S6C will award bursary based on an assessment of circumstances and actual need.

How to Apply

Applications are made online using the link on the college website:
www.salisbury6c.ac.uk/study-with-us/bursary/

For vulnerable bursaries, students need to supply evidence of their status, such as written confirmation from the Local Authority (in the case of a care leaver) or evidence of universal credit or disability allowances payable in their own right.

Students will need to supply clear evidence of household income before a discretionary bursary can be awarded.

If you are unable to upload the evidence of your family household income, please send a copy of the evidence to office@s6c.mlp.college clearly stating the student to whom the evidence relates.

In exceptional circumstances, the Pastoral Team will make a bursary recommendation to the Head of College without further evidence, based on their knowledge of the student's circumstances or as a result of a welfare need for a meal.

All applications will be treated as confidential, and the college will adhere to the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR in its handling of your application.

What Can the Bursary Pay For?

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund is intended to assist students in meeting the costs associated with attending college. It cannot fund general living expenses. Assistance can be requested with any of the following:

- Transport costs between home and college
- Lunches in the college cafeteria
- A laptop
- The cost of visits and field trips that form an essential part of courses
- The cost of stationery, printing, books or other materials
- Other costs related to studies not included in this list, subject to assessment

No optional activities such as enrichment activities or overseas trips will be paid for from bursary.

Bursary will usually be given as benefit in kind, as the college can take advantage of education discounts to buy items and is able to reclaim VAT. Direct payments and reimbursements to students will only be made in rare and exceptional circumstances.

How Much Is the Bursary?

Under the current rules of the scheme, students who qualify for the Vulnerable Bursary may receive a bursary of up to £1,200 per year based on a financial needs assessment and the amount of support required to participate at the college. There is the possibility the award may be limited or assessed as not required.

Amounts paid to students qualifying for the Discretionary Bursary can vary from year to year depending on the amount of funding the college receives, the number of applicants and their individual needs. S6C's aim is to allocate the funds as fairly as possible and in line with individual needs.

Receipt of both categories of bursary in full is dependent on agreed standards of attendance and behaviour. S6C will prioritise help with transport costs and aims to meet these costs in full for qualifying students, wherever possible.

When Can You Apply?

You can apply at any time from June onwards for the next academic year. The college will accept applications throughout the year, particularly if your financial circumstances change. However, the college cannot guarantee that funds will still be available for applications received later in the year.

Students need to apply for bursary and supply evidence for each year of their programme, or sign a declaration that their circumstances have not changed since their original application.

What If an Application Is Turned Down?

You have the right to appeal. You should put your case in writing and address it to the Head of College at the college address. Any appeal must be made within seven working days of being advised of the decision. The Head of College's decision is final.

Can the Bursary Be Stopped?

If a student does not meet the minimum standards of attendance and behaviour in the college, bursary may be withdrawn.