

FINANCIAL SUPPORT GUIDE 2026/27

16–19 Bursary Fund

16–19 Vulnerable Bursary Fund

Free college meals

16–20 Care to Learn Childcare Funding

19+ Discretionary Learner Support Fund

19+ Advanced Learner Loan Bursary

NWSLC

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE AND SOUTH LEICESTERSHIRE COLLEGE

Bursaries are government-funded schemes intended to help support students who face the greatest financial barriers to continuing in education.

Bursaries available:

- 16–19 Bursary Fund
- 16–19 Vulnerable Bursary
- Free college meals
- Care to Learn Childcare Funding
- 19+ Discretionary Learner Support Fund
- 19+ Advanced Learning Loan Bursary

16–19 Bursary Fund

To help students with essential costs such as lunch, travel, equipment and trips.

Eligibility	• Aged 16 or over, but under 19 on 31st August of the year your course starts. • Aged 19 and continuing year 2 of a 2-year course you began when aged 16–18. • Aged 19–24 and have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). • Enrolled on a full-time funded course. • Able to evidence the need for financial assistance and are in receipt of/or have parents/carers who are in receipt of eligible means tested benefits or classed as receiving low income. • Satisfy UK residency criteria. • Must have a bank account in **own name** in order to receive payments.
Criteria	• The **total** household income, including all benefits and earned income is £28,000.00 or less (plus £1,500.00 annual allowance, per child 18 and under).To assess your household income, any benefits and income received will be added together along with any carers allowance and housing related benefits, to determine your overall household income.
How much you receive	• This is assessed on an individual basis and depends on funding categories awarded. • New evidence of eligibility must be submitted each academic year. There is no guarantee you will be awarded the same as previous years.
Not eligible	• Students on Higher Education and Work Based Learning/ Waged Apprenticeships.



16–19 Vulnerable Bursary

Bursary support may be available for students studying a course lasting 30 weeks or more, meet the criteria stated below and have a financial need.

Eligibility	• Aged 16 and over and under 19 on 31st August of the year your course starts. • Enrolled on a full-time funded course lasting 30 weeks or more. • Are classed as Looked After Child/Living In Care or Care Leaver **or** • Receiving Income Support, or Universal Credit in your own right, because you are financially supporting yourself **or** • Financially supporting yourself and someone who is dependent on you and living with you such as a child or partner **or** • Are in receipt of DLA or PIP in your own right as well as Employment Support Allowance or Universal Credit. Students must be in receipt of DLA or PIP and ESA or UC to be eligible – **receipt of DLA or PIP alone does not meet the criteria.** • Satisfy UK residency criteria. • Must have a bank account in **own name**.
Criteria	• Written confirmation of your care status from the local authority which looks or looked after you, **or** • Proof of benefit – Income Support, Universal Credit, DLA, PIP or ESA (in own name) as well as a tenancy agreement or child benefit letter in your name.
Potential entitlement	• Any award given will be based on an assessment of financial need and what costs will be incurred on your chosen college programme. You may be allocated support with food, travel or course equipment that is deemed essential for the year. • There is a possibility that no award or a limited award will be given after the assessment of need, if there are no actual costs identified.
Not eligible	• Students on Higher Education and Work Based Learning/ Waged Apprenticeships.

16–19 Free college meals

Eligibility	• To be eligible for free college meals, you or your parent/s must be in receipt of one or more of the means tested benefits as outlined on the government website **www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals** (if you do not qualify for free meals, you may still be entitled to meals from the 16–19 bursary fund). This will be assessed as part of the Bursary Fund application.
Not eligible	• Students over 19, unless you have an EHCP or are a 19+ returner.

16 – 20 Care to Learn Childcare Fund

Provides funding for childcare whilst the parent is engaged in a study programme

Eligibility	• Aged under 20 years old at the start date of your programme. • Must be the main carer and in receipt of child benefit for the child(ren) for whom you wish to claim Care to Learn. • Must have legal right to be resident in the UK. • The Childcare provider must be registered with Ofsted. • Childcare provider must live apart from the child(ren). • Payments are made by BACS direct to the childcare provider and subject to continuing attendance.
How much you receive	• Up to £180.00 per child per week whilst attending timetabled lessons and work placements. (16–19 bursary can be used as supplementary help if childcare costs exceed this amount). • Help may be available with additional travel costs involved in taking child(ren) to childcare provider. • We may be able to support with Childcare costs when study time is required as part of your programme to complete coursework, revision or homework. **This must be agreed with college in the first instance.**
Not eligible	• Students on Higher Education and Work Based Learning/Waged Apprenticeships.

19+ Discretionary Fund Bursary

Helps students over 19 with essential costs, such as lunch, travel, equipment and childcare.

Eligibility	• Aged 19 and over. • Enrolled on a full or part time funded course. • Able to evidence the need for financial assistance and are in receipt of, or dependent upon an eligible means tested benefit or classed as receiving low income. • Satisfy UK residency criteria. • Must have a bank account in **own name** in order to receive payments.
Criteria	**19+ living with parents/family members.** • Personal income of less than **£8,000.00** per year. **Adults above 19 years of age.** • Total household income including all benefits and earned income must be below **£28,000.00** (plus £1,500.00 annual allowance, per child 18 and under). To assess your household income, any benefits and income you receive will be added together along with any carers allowance and housing related benefits, to determine your overall household income.
How much you receive	• This is assessed on an individual basis and depends on funding categories awarded. New evidence of eligibility must be submitted each academic year. There is no guarantee you will be awarded the same as previous years.
Not eligible	• Students on Higher Education and Work Based Learning/ Waged Apprenticeships.



19+ Advanced Learner Loan Bursary

For students studying a Level 3 or 4 qualification with essential costs such as lunch, travel, equipment and childcare.

Eligibility	• You must have your advanced learner loan approved before bursary can allocate additional funding. **(Go to gov.uk/advanced-learner-loan to apply).** • Aged 19 and over. • Enrolled on a Level 3 or Level 4 full or part time funded course. • Able to evidence the need for financial assistance and are in receipt of, or dependent upon an eligible means tested benefit or classed as receiving low income. • Satisfy UK residency criteria. • Have a bank account in your **own name** in order to receive payments.
Criteria	**19+ living with parents/family members.** • Personal income of less than £8,000 per year. **Adults above 19 years of age.** • Total household income including all benefits and earned income must be below **£28,000.00** (plus £1,500.00 annual allowance, per child 18 and under). To assess your household income, any benefits and income you receive will be added together along with any carers allowance and housing related benefits, to determine overall household income.
How much you receive	• This is assessed on an individual basis and depends on funding categories awarded. • New evidence of eligibility must be submitted each academic year. There is no guarantee you will be awarded the same as previous years.
Not eligible	• Students on Higher Education and Work Based Learning/ Waged Apprenticeships.



What help is available from the bursary fund?

You will need to let us know what support it is that you require.
There is no guarantee that you will be awarded all types as all awards are based on need and eligibility.

Travel (Bus/Train)	• Help with the cost of travel via bus or train. You must live more than 2 miles away from the campus you are studying at and **not** be eligible for help from your Local Authority. Petrol and Taxi/Uber payments **cannot** be given. • All travel refunds will be capped at £40.00 per week.
Course equipment, materials and uniform	• Help with the cost of course equipment and uniforms which are considered an **essential** requirement for your course. **(See Appendix A – equipment and uniform).**
Lunch/ Free college meals	• Your student ID card will be pre-loaded with lunch credit for each timetabled day that you attend college to enable you to purchase food and drink from the College Refectories or Eating Places. • Students learning at Grayson Place will have their lunch allocation sent to their bank accounts, and this will be reviewed and submitted on a weekly basis, in line with the student's attendance and evidence of purchases submitted.
Childcare	• Childcare funding is only paid for the days and hours that you attend your college course or placement. The maximum contribution will be £200.00 per week.
Tuition fees for 19+ (19+ Discretionary Fund students only)	• Depending on your circumstances, tuition fees for some courses may be free. If you are required to pay fees and you are eligible, we may be able to help towards these course fees. Depending on your prior qualification, if you are studying a Level 3 programme, you **may** need to apply for a student loan for help with fees.
Work placement/ Expenses	• If your placement is more than 2 miles from your home address, you may be eligible for help with travel expenses via bus or train. Uber refunds cannot be given. You may also be entitled to other expenses incurred during your placement such as lunch or uniform if required.
Trips	• Payment towards the cost of essential trips and visits required as part of your course. The trip needs to be deemed as an **essential** part of passing your qualification.
UCAS fees	• Help towards the cost of your UCAS application registration fees.
University Interviews	• Help towards the cost of travel to your University Interview.

Note: Accompanied asylum seekers may receive support in the form of meal credit or bus passes. No direct cash payments can be made.

The funds cannot be used to support general living costs, counselling or mentoring; extra curriculum or non-compulsory activities that are classed as non essential.

How do I apply?

You can apply for the above funding by either computer or mobile phone, and you must be an enrolled learner at the college.

Please note, it can take up to 48 hours after your enrolment, to have access to the bursary system.

Continuing and progressing learners need to re-apply each academic year for financial assistance – there is no automatic carry forward of any award given.

Applying for financial support is made through the PayMyStudent Portal. This online process enables you to fill out an application form and submit the necessary evidence that will be used to determine your eligibility.

The information collected is stored and secure and will not be shared outside the college environment.

Step 1 Pay My Student (PMS)	**You can access PMS by typing the following into the address bar: https://nwsl.paymystudent.com/portal/** It is recommended that you follow the 'How Do I Apply Guide' when completing your bursary application. A copy of this guide can be obtained from all college receptions, downloaded from the college website – (College life/financial help/ bursaries) or by clicking on the link on the PayMyStudent Portal.





Appendix A – Equipment and Uniform

Below is a list of college courses whereby equipment/uniform will be required and details of what bursary will pay.

Course	Amount bursary will pay	Notes
Art and Design – Hinckley Graphics/Interior/Fashion Design/Photography/Music	Pack of essential materials/items for your chosen course	Student to contact Hinckley reception once bursary has been approved. Packs will be available from October half term
Automotive Motor Vehicle/Sport Vehicle Maintenance	**£45.00** max contribution for boots **£45.00** max contribution for overalls/ cargo trousers	Student to purchase Refund on receipts
Beauty – Full Time Beauty Therapy/Specialist Nail Tech and Cosmetic Make-up /Complimentary Therapy Spa/Massage Therapy	Uniform and kit	Student to purchase uniform, refund on receipts College will order kit on receipt of completed order forms and Bursary approval
Make-up Artistry Hair and Media Make-up/ Theatrical, Media and Special Effects Make-up	Kit (Uniform not required)	College will order kit on receipt of completed order forms and Bursary approval
Brickwork/ Construction, Carpentry and Joinery	**£45.00** max contribution for boots **£5.00** max contribution for hi-vis	Student to purchase Refund on receipts
Catering Hospitality/Catering	Cost of mandatory uniform and equipment including shoes	Student to purchase uniform and equipment – bursary to refund on receipts
Childcare/Health and Social Care/Teaching and Learning	Cost of 2 polo shirts for placement and 1 hoodie	Student to order and pay Refund on receipts (Hoodie not included)
Electrical Installation	Cost of the required electrical books **£45.00** max contribution for boots **£5.00** contribution for safety goggles	Student to purchase Refund on receipts
Engineering	**£45.00** max contribution for boots **£45.00** max contribution for overalls/ cargo trousers **£5.00** contribution for safety goggles	Student to purchase Refund on receipts

Hairdressing – Full time Hair/Barbering	Uniform and kit	Student to purchase uniform Refund on receipts College will order kit on receipt of completed order forms and Bursary approval
Hairdressing / Barbering and Beauty – Part Time	50% refund	Student to order and pay Bursary to refund 50% on receipts
Media and Games Design	**£20.00** contribution towards headphones **£35.00** contribution towards USB	Student to purchase Refund on receipts
Nail Technology – Part Time	50% refund	Student to order and pay Bursary to refund 50% on receipts
Painting and Decorating	**£45.00** max contribution for boots **£45.00** max contribution for overalls/ cargo trousers	Student to purchase Refund on receipts
Sport and Coaching	Cost of required mandatory uniform T-shirt and jumper	Student to order and pay Refund on receipts
Travel and Tourism Aviation/Cabin crew	Cost of required mandatory uniform	Student to order and pay Refund on receipts

Please email completed order forms and receipts to **bursarykit@nwslc.ac.uk** Refunds will not be processed until the start of term. Students must have commenced the course before refunds are given. Any receipts submitted more than 2 months after items are purchased, will not be refunded.

Equipment purchased through the bursary fund remains the property of the College. If you leave your course early, we will request you return the equipment in good condition to the College. All equipment orders and refunds are subject to attendance checks and may be delayed pending satisfactory attendance levels being met.

All details are correct at time of printing and may be subject to change.

Contact details

If you have any questions, or require help on the application process, please don't hesitate to contact us.

For further information or support please contact: **bursary@nwslc.ac.uk**

Equipment/uniform order forms and receipts contact: **bursarykit@nwslc.ac.uk**

Telephone: **0330 058 3000** or visit: **www.nwslc.ac.uk/financial-help**



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Find out more today

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Information is correct at the time of going to print. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy. The college reserves the right to withdraw or amend courses, entry requirements, fees and details included in this publication. For latest course information please visit the website www.nwslc.ac.uk

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