

# 19+ Learner Support Fund Guidance 2025/26

## Who can apply?

The 19+ Learner Support Fund is to support learners in full time/part time (courses must be timetabled for a minimum of 7 hours per week to qualify) further education by providing a contribution towards the cost of attending the college such as travel, uniform and childcare.

The 19+ Learner Support Fund is available to learners aged 19+ (19 as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025) that have an annual household income of less than £30,000.

Learners will be eligible for bursary support if they meet one of the criteria listed in the table below. The value of the award will vary depending on criteria including household income, personal circumstances and college course. Learners must maintain a minimum of 80% attendance. All awards will have a total capped amount.

**For learners aged 16-18 on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025, please refer to the 16-19 Bursary Fund Guidance.**

An applicant is placed in one of the following categories based on the criteria:

| Category                    | Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Learner Support Available                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>19+ LSF</b>              | A learner living in a <b>household</b> that has an annual income, including means-tested benefits, of less than £30,000.                                                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel costs (if travelling from over 1 mile away)</li> <li>• Uniform &amp; Equipment costs</li> <li>• iPad deposit</li> <li>• UCAS application fee</li> <li>• Childcare assistance</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Learner Loan Bursary</b> | <p>In addition to meeting the 19+ LSF criteria listed above:</p> <p>A learner that has applied and been approved for an Advanced Learner Loan, or is eligible for Level 3 Entitlement funding. (evidence required)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance grant towards support, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel costs (if travelling from over 1 mile away)</li> <li>Uniform &amp; equipment costs</li> <li>UCAS application fee</li> <li>Monthly maintenance award</li> </ul> </li> <li>• iPad deposit</li> <li>• Childcare assistance</li> </ul> |

### Uniform and equipment costs

- Uniform and equipment costs vary depending on the course and some courses have no essential costs.

### Childcare assistance

- This is only available for learners aged 20+ (20 as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025) that meet the criteria.
- Full time learner – a maximum of £180 per week per learner.
- Part time learner – a maximum of £90 per week per learner.

*\*Learners aged 19 and under on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 will be required to apply for the Care to Learn scheme for childcare assistance. Information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn>.*

### Maintenance grant

- This is only available to learners who meet the criteria for Learner Loan Bursary or those who qualify for Level 3 entitlement.
- Monthly maintenance award payments will be made directly to the learner's bank account each month.

For all 19+ LSF and Learner Loan Bursary recipients there is a total bursary award cap of £1000 for learners on a full-time course and £500 for learners on a part-time course.

**All awards are discretionary and are subject to the availability of funds. Information is subject to change.**

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