



Policy/Procedure/Guideline Review

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| Policy/Procedure/Guideline: | Financial Support and Bursary Policy 2021 - 2022 |
| Senior Leader Responsible: | Assistant Principal – Finance and HR |
| Author: | Student Services Manager and Finance Manager |
| Approved By: | Board |
| Date Approved: | 5 July 2021 |
| Next Review Date: | 5 July 2022 |
| Publication: | Nelson and Colne College website Accrington and Rossendale College website Lancashire Adult Learning website Nelson and Colne College Group Staff Hub Nelson and Colne College Group Moodle |
| Changes Made: | Updated academic year references. Additional childcare allowance increased in line with UCAS. |

Bursary Policy 2021/22

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Nelson and Colne College Group, consisting of Nelson and Colne College, Lancashire Adult Learning and Accrington and Rossendale College ('The College') receives allocations of funds annually from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and the Office for Students (OfS) to provide financial support to our students.
- 1.2 The College refers to these funds as bursary funds and administers and distributes them to provide financial support in order to help students overcome financial barriers to learning, ensuring they can take part in or continue learning and access educational and progression opportunities. The College recognises the positive impact of education on the lives of our students and promotes the full participation in course related activities and College enrichment/extra-curricular programmes.
- 1.3 Any student may apply for financial assistance and should be aware that their application will receive consideration in accordance with the eligibility requirements stated in Section 6 and 7.
- 1.4 The College provides information about financial support and promotes access to support via information leaflets, posters, the College websites, at interviews and at promotional events i.e. open evenings and school liaison events.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure:
 - bursary funds are distributed in accordance with the regulations and guidelines laid out by funding agencies;
 - the administration of the bursary funds helps students overcome the specific financial barriers to participation they face so they can remain in education;
 - the eligibility criteria for bursary funds is explained;
 - systems are in place to administer, record and monitor bursary funds, to ensure funds are used for their intended purpose.

3. Legislative/Quality Framework

- 3.1 The College will apply the following published guidelines for the appropriate age groups and funding types, for the use of these funds:
 - Free meals in further education funded institutions: guide for the 2021 to 2022 academic year
 - 16 to 19 Bursary Fund guide: 2021 to 2022 academic year
 - ESFA funded Adult Education Budget (AEB) Funding Rules 2021 to 2022
 - Advanced Learner Loans Funding Rules 20210 to 2022
 - Care to Learn: Guide for the 2021 to 2022 academic year
- 3.2 Please note that as the above funding guidelines are updated, this policy will be amended to reflect changes as required.

4. Scope

- 4.1 This policy applies to all eligible (see Section 6 and 7) students of Nelson and College Group.

5. Abbreviations

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| ACL | Adult and Community Learning |
| AEB | Adult Education Budget |
| ALLB | Advanced Learner Loans Bursary |
| ESFA | Education and Skills Funding Agency |
| EHCP | Education and Health Care Plan |
| FCM | Free College Meals |
| VBF | Vulnerable Bursary Fund |
| HE | Higher Education |

6. Bursary Funding Eligibility Criteria

- 6.1 This policy covers the financial support funds which are available to eligible students. Students who apply for any of the funds will be assessed individually and awarded support based on their financial need. Please note:

- Bursaries are subject to available funds and eligibility does not guarantee entitlement to funds.
- Bursary payments are subject to attendance and behaviour in line with College Policies and Procedures.
- Bursary awards only cover one academic year and students must re-apply for support on an annual basis.

- 6.2 To be eligible for funding from any of the Bursary Funds, all students must satisfy the following criteria. Additional specific eligibility requirements apply to each fund as listed within the Bursary Funds Section (7) below:

- Residency criteria as set out by the [ESFA funding regulations](#).
- Have a gross annual household income of less than £31,496 per year for bursary and childcare support – excluding Care to Learn. The College may choose to use its discretion where household income exceeds this amount but it is identified that support is needed.
- Able to demonstrate 'relative financial need' for costs that may deter them joining, continuing or completing their course.
- Minimum attendance of 85%

- 6.3 Students must also be on a course that is subject to inspection by a public body (e.g. Ofsted) and must also be:

- Funded directly by the ESFA or by the ESFA via a local authority
- Funded or co-financed by the European Social Fund
- Otherwise publicly funded and lead to a qualification (up to and including level 3) accredited by Ofqual or on the ESFA list of qualifications approved for funding 14 to 19
- On a 16-19 traineeship programme

- Non-employed students aged 16 to 19 participating in a Prince's Trust Team Programme.
 - Regulated by the Office for Students (OfS) on a higher education programme
- 6.4 The College reserves the right to apply discretion to ensure that individual students' needs and personal circumstances are considered when decisions are made.
- 6.5 The following students are not eligible to receive any financial assistance from the ESFA or OfS Bursary Funds:
- An individual on an apprenticeship programme, or any waged training as they are employed, rather than in education (excluding care leavers) or;
 - Receiving help with travel/childcare costs through Job Centre Plus or Work Programme provider;
 - Not eligible for funding (as determined by ESFA);
 - Self-funded or employer-funded.
- 6.6 Students not eligible for support via the ESFA or OfS Bursary Funds can apply for support from the College's own Student Benefit Fund. Support may be provided dependent on financial need and subject to available funds.

7. Types of Bursary Funds

The bursary fund types and additional eligibility criteria are detailed below.

7.1 ESFA 16-19 Bursary Fund

Additional Eligibility Criteria:

- Aged 16 or over but under 19 at 31st August 2021, or;
- Aged 19 or over and continuing on a study programme they began aged 16 to 18 (19+ continuer), or;
- Aged 19 or over with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Course Eligibility criteria (See Section 6.3).

Support Available:

- Discretionary bursaries to meet individual needs e.g. help with the cost of travel, books, equipment, specialist clothing, free meals, trips & visits, attending university interviews and open days.

Young adult carers experience a range of difficulties and disadvantages which can potentially affect full-time study. Identified young carers will meet with the Safeguarding Officer to determine any financial need and additional awards may be supported for travel, trips and other course related costs in consultation with the Safeguarding and Prevent Manager and Student Services Manager.

7.2 Capacity and Delivery Fund (CDF) – Industry Placements

This fund is to support vocational students undertaking an industry placement who may need to travel further to access their placement and/or incur additional costs for

equipment and clothing. This fund is not restricted to students who would be entitled to receive bursary support, however the ESFA 16-19 bursary guidance will be followed.

7.3 ESFA 16-19 Bursary for Vulnerable Groups

Additional Eligibility Criteria:

- Aged 16 or over but under 19 at 31 August 2021; and
- In care: or
- Care leavers; or
- 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; or:
- 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

Definition of 'In Care' and 'Care Leaver':

- 'In care' is defined as 'Children looked after by a local authority on a voluntary basis (section 20 of the Children Act 1989) or under a care order (section 31 of the Children Act 1989) - Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 defines the term 'looked after child'.'
- A 'care leaver' is defined as:
 - a young person aged 16 and 17 who was previously looked after for a period of 13 weeks consecutively (or periods amounting to 13 weeks), which began after the age of 14 and ended after the age of 16; or
 - a young person aged 18 or above who was looked after prior to becoming 18 for a period of 13 weeks consecutively (or periods amounting to 13 weeks), which began after the age of 14 and ended after the age of 16

Support Available:

- Up to £1,200 per year (for courses that last for 30 weeks or more. Pro rata amounts payable for courses less than 30 weeks)

In exceptional circumstances and where it is assessed that the student may need extra help to remain in education, further bursary funding can be allocated from the ESFA 16-19 Bursary Fund. This will be at the discretion of the Safeguarding and Prevent Manager and the Student Services Manager.

The amount of Bursary received may be less than the initial award granted as weekly payments are based on good attendance, punctuality, behaviour and progress.

Students will meet with the Safeguarding and Prevent team to determine how the Bursary will be distributed (e.g. via equipment awards, travel passes, weekly awards). Details of the award will be recorded at the meeting.

Please note applications for this bursary are assessed on an individual basis and there is a possibility of no award or a limited award if financial needs are covered from other sources.

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are eligible for a bursary for Vulnerable groups ('in care' group), where they have a financial need. When these young people reach legal adulthood at age 18, the College will consider their immigration status and if the asylum claim is decided in their favour, they continue to be eligible for a bursary as a student from a vulnerable group until they reach the upper age limit.

Foster Care

A young person placed with a foster carer by the local authority, including where the foster carer is registered with an independent fostering agency, is classed as 'in care'. These students meet the criteria for the 'in care' vulnerable group where they need financial support to participate.

A child who is privately fostered (a private arrangement is made between the parent and the person who will care for the child) is not classed as a looked after the child and is not eligible for the bursary for vulnerable groups.

In some instances, a young person may have been in the care of the local authority and the care transferred to another party via a permanent form of fostering such as Special Guardianship Order. In these circumstances, the young person is defined as having left care so is now a 'care leaver'. They must meet the definition of a 'care leaver' to be eligible for support from the bursary for the vulnerable groups, where they need financial support to participate.

7.4 ESFA 16 – 19 Free Meals

Additional Eligibility Criteria:

- Aged 16 or over but under 19 at 31st August 2021, or;
- Aged 19 or over and continuing on the same study programme they began aged 16 – 18 (19+ continuer), or;
- Aged 19 or over with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- In receipt of Free Meals on or after 1st April 2018 (including prior to starting College)
- Student or parents being in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

| Benefit | Benefit Evidence required: | Additional Information/ Requirement |
|--|---|--|
| Income Support | Letter dated within 6 months of bursary application | |
| Income-based Jobseekers Allowance | Letter dated within 6 months of bursary application | |
| Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) | Letter dated within 6 months of bursary application | |
| Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 | Letter dated within 6 months of bursary application | |
| Guarantee element of State Pension Credit | Letter dated within 6 months of bursary application | |
| Child Tax Credit | Letter dated within 6 months of bursary application | NOT entitled to Working Tax Credit |

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| | | AND have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by HMRC |
| Working Tax Credit run-on | Letter dated within 6 months of bursary application | Paid for 4 weeks after someone stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit |
| Universal Credit (UC) | 3 most recent UC award notices | With net earnings not exceeding the equivalent of £7,400 per annum (after tax and not including any benefits) |

Please note: Working Tax Credit is not a qualifying benefit for Free Meals

Support Available:

- Free meal to the value of £3.00 for each day the student attends study or activity that is part of their course. Meals will be supplied through the College catering outlets.
- Arrangements to ensure eligible students receive a free meal when studying or participating in activity off site will be put in place as required (e.g. work placements, trips/visits).
- Free Breakfast (as determined by the College) every day before 9am and free fruit throughout the day.

The College may award free college meals on a discretionary basis if there is a financial need.

Free meal eligible students attending work placements as part of their course will be supported throughout their placement, via the employer or by a College issued voucher. Payments for meal support will only be made in exceptional circumstances.

7.5 Care to Learn Scheme (Childcare)

Additional Eligibility Criteria:

- Students aged under 20 on the first day of the course can apply for support with childcare costs through the Care to Learn scheme.
- Young parent must be the main carer and in receipt of child benefit for the child(ren)

Support Available:

- Up to £160 per child per week

Details of the scheme and how to apply are available at <https://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn>

7.6 Apprenticeship Bursary for Care Leavers

Apprentices are eligible to receive a one-off payment of £1,000 bursary payment if they have been in the care of the local authority (in care) defined as:

- An eligible child – a young person who is 16 or 17 and who has been looked after by the local authority/health and social care trust for at least a period of 13 weeks since the age of 14, and who is still looked after

- A relevant child – a young person who is 16 or 17 who has left care after their 16th birthday and before leaving care was an eligible child
- A former relevant child – a young person who is aged between 19 and 21 (up to their 25th birthday if they are in education or training) who, before turning 18, was either an eligible or relevant child.

Evidence of the above must be provided and retained to support an application; this must be a signed email or letter confirmation from a local authority appointed Personal Advisor confirming that the apprentice is a care leaver.

The apprentice (if aged 19-24) must give consent for their employer to be informed that they have been in the care of the local authority, and understand that this declaration will be used to generate additional payments for both the Employer and the Training Provider (College) to support transition into work.

If the apprentice is found to have accepted payment incorrectly or when not eligible then the bursary will have to be repaid to Government. The apprentice must sign to confirm they have received the bursary payment.

7.7 ESFA Adult Education Budget Learner Support Fund

Additional Eligibility Criteria:

Hardship funding

- Aged 19 or over on the first day of the course

Support Available:

- Course - related costs, including trips, books and equipment (where these costs are not included in the tuition fee)
- Support with domestic emergencies and emergency accommodation provided by others, or by providing items or services or cash direct to the learner, this can be in the form of a grant or repayable loan
- Transport costs
- Examination fees
- Accreditation fees, professional membership fees and any fees or charges due to external bodies
- Registration fees
- Support for students on a traineeship including the work placement element
- In exceptional circumstances, assistance maybe provided to assist with course fees for students who need financial support to start or stay in learning

Please note: Asylum Seekers that are eligible will be supported in the form of course related books, equipment or a travel pass. In exceptional circumstances cash payments can be made.

Assessment of the level of support needed for each programme of study will be carried out in conjunction with information supplied by curriculum teams regarding course related costs. Bursary funds may be able to assist with costs where equipment is required to enhance a student's access to learning or to increase levels of achievement. Bursary funds are not available to cover costs/charges for items without which a student could not complete their course (these are covered within the course fee).

20 + Childcare Funding

- Aged 20 or over on the first day of the course (Students aged 20 years old or under should apply for Care 2 Learn – see above)
- the parent/guardian/main carer of a child/children that are of compulsory school age or under

Support Available:

- Payments will only be made to an Ofsted registered childcare provider after any free Government entitlement to childcare has been exhausted.
- The maximum award given for the first child is £180 per week and up to £308 per week for more than one child. This is up a maximum of 36 term weeks. Where applicable, support towards a retainer fee for College holidays (excluding summer holidays) will be payable up to 50% of the maximum award as stated above.
- Support will only be payable for timetabled sessions and placements only.

The amount of funding available for childcare is limited and there is no guaranteed entitlement to the funds. In exceptional circumstances and where funds allow, the maximum award may be increased.

Please note: Bursary awards may affect entitlement to some benefits. If a student is in receipt of DLA/PIP and ESA, parents can no longer receive certain household/family benefits for that child, such as child benefit.

7.8 Advanced Learner Loans Bursary

Individual Eligibility Criteria:

- Aged 19 or over on the first day of the course and;
- In receipt of Advanced Learner Loan approved by the Student Loan Company

Support Available:

Hardship

- course-related costs, including course trips, books and equipment (where these costs are not included in the tuition fee)
- transport costs for getting to and from College
- professional membership fees and any fees or charges due to external bodies related to the course (e.g. AAT membership / UCAS fees)
- exceptional support with domestic emergencies and emergency accommodation provided by others, or by providing items or services or cash direct to the student. This can be in the form of a grant or repayable loan provided by you for course related costs.

Assessment of the level of support needed for each programme of study will be carried out in conjunction with information supplied by curriculum teams regarding course related costs. Bursary funds may be able to assist with costs where equipment is required to enhance a student's access to learning or to increase levels of achievement. Bursary funds are not available to cover costs/charges for items without

which a student could not complete their course (these are covered within the course fee).

Childcare Eligibility

To be eligible for support with childcare costs you must be:

- the parent/guardian/main carer of a child/children that are of compulsory school age or under.
- Aged 20 or over at the start date of the course. (Students aged 20 years old or under should apply for Care 2 Learn – see above)

Childcare Support:

- Payments will only be made to an Ofsted registered childcare provider after any free Government entitlement to childcare has been exhausted.
- The maximum award given for the first child is £180 per week and up to £308 per week for more than one child. This is up a maximum of 36 term weeks. Where applicable, support towards a retainer fee for College holidays (excluding summer holidays) will be payable up to 50% of the maximum award as stated above.
- Support will only be payable for timetabled sessions and placements only.

The amount of funding available for childcare is limited and there is no guaranteed entitlement to the funds. In exceptional circumstances and where funds allow, the maximum award may be increased.

For those with additional Learning Support needs who are in receipt of an Advanced Learner Loan, please refer to the Additional Learning Support Policy.

Please note, it is a student's responsibility to tell the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) about any student support contributions being made by the College, as student support payments may affect eligibility to state benefits.

7.9 Higher Education Support

HE Hardship Loan

Individual Eligibility Criteria:

- Be enrolled on a programme of prescribed HE
- Have satisfactory engagement at the time of application
- Have a financial need that can be mitigated by a loan that can reasonably be expected to be repaid over a short period.

Support Available:

- course-related costs, including course trips, books and equipment (where these costs are not included in the tuition fee), support with domestic emergencies and emergency accommodation
- transport costs
- professional membership fees and any fees or charges due to external bodies
- support provided by others, providing items or services, or cash direct to the student.

The cost of the support provided to student will be in the form of a repayable loan.

HE Hardship Fund

Individual Eligibility Criteria:

- Be enrolled on a programme of prescribed HE
- Have satisfactory engagement at the time of application
- Have a financial need that cannot be mitigated by a loan that can reasonably be expected to be repaid over a short period.

Support Available:

- course-related costs, including course trips, books and equipment (where these costs are not included in the tuition fee), support with domestic emergencies and emergency accommodation
- transport costs
- professional membership fees and any fees or charges due to external bodies
- support provided by others, or by providing items or services or cash direct to the student

The support to the student will be in the form of a non-repayable grant.

7.10 Student Benefit Fund

The College has a fund for students in financial need that may not meet the eligibility criteria for other bursary support as set out above.

The College will assess need on an individual basis and will apply discretion as appropriate and where funds allow.

7.11 Emergency Support

Under certain circumstances students may face genuine emergencies (e.g. no accommodation, unforeseen costs or charges, theft or loss of possessions or money). In these circumstances, students should contact the Safeguarding and Prevent team or Student Services either directly or via their tutor.

Following consultation with the tutor, Safeguarding and Prevent Manager and Student Services Manager every effort will be made to provide the financial assistance to ensure the student can continue with their studies. Under these circumstances it may not be necessary to provide evidence of family income and costs.

8. Course Fees and Course Related Costs

Course and Exam Fees

- 8.1 Students aged 16-18 (including those aged 19-24 with and EHCP) on ESFA funded full or part-time learning on 31st August 2021 are not charged fees related to tuition, initial exams or any aspect of enrolment. Students will be charged for the cost of A Level examination re-sits or may be charged in other areas e.g. GCSE retakes to

improve existing grades. 16-18 year old students can apply for support with these costs. Each application will be considered on its own merit within the College criteria set out above and is subject to available funds.

- 8.2 Non-fully funded Students aged 19+ will only be supported with course and exam fee costs where alternative means of financial support are not available and financial need can be evidenced. Students who are eligible for an Advanced Learner Loan are unable to apply for financial support with course fees.

Kit, Equipment and Uniform

- 8.3 Details of course related kit, equipment and uniform information will be provided in the student welcome pack and at enrolment. Bursary eligible students can receive free kit, equipment and uniform (subject to bursary assessment and available funds). In addition, in accordance with ESFA funding rules students aged 19 years and above who are fully funded are entitled to free materials and uniform where their learning aim cannot be achieved without them.

Please note: where clothing or equipment is necessary for the student's health and safety a charge may be made for clothing and equipment that the student retains but the student will have the option of borrowing the clothing or equipment free of charge.

- 8.4 Kit, equipment and uniform will be purchased and issued by the College. Where the student has already purchased kit, equipment or uniform then payment will be made into the student's bank account by BACS, once evidence of purchase has been received by Student Services.
- 8.5 All items purchased using Bursary funds remain College property and will be retained by the College.

Disclosure and Barring Service Check (DBS)

- 8.6 The cost of a DBS check will be covered within the course costs where it is an essential part of the study programme, except for co-funded students who will be required to pay but may be eligible to apply for financial support.
- 8.7 Where a DBS is not an essential part of the study programme and a student chooses a work/industry placement where a DBS is required, then the student can apply for financial support towards the DBS cost. The placement must be for longer than 10 hours.

UCAS Fees

- 8.8 Bursary eligible students can receive support for their UCAS fees. Payment will be made directly to UCAS.

Online Learning Support

- 8.9 In response to Covid -19, IT support may be available to support students with classroom or blended learning to continue to participate via online learning.

Eligibility Criteria:

The student is self-isolating, caring for others affected by Covid-19 or is otherwise affected by local/national measures and:

- does not have internet access at home and/or
- does not access to a suitable device (i.e. laptop/tablet) to complete the necessary online course work
- Bursary eligible (excluding Student Benefit Fund)

Support Available:

- Loan of a suitable IT device

8.10 Equipment loans are subject to the students signed agreement with the College's terms and conditions (parental/guardian signature is required for students under the age of 18). Equipment must be returned to the College on completion of the study programme and in the same condition in which it was received.

8.11 Resources are finite and access to laptops for all bursary eligible students is not guaranteed.

9. Travel Costs

Travel to College

- 9.1 The College operates a number of bus services through Transdev and its own College mini buses.
- 9.2 Free bus passes are available to bursary eligible 16-18 year old students, those aged 19-24 with EHCP and 19 + students on accredited courses. Subsidised termly bus passes are available for 16 – 18 year old students and bursary eligible 19+ students on non-accredited courses.
- 9.3 Students who are resident outside of the travel pass area can apply for a travel grant. Support will be determined on individual circumstances with bursary support limited to a maximum of £560 per year. Travel grants will be paid into the student's bank account by BACS.
- 9.4 If there are excessive demands on travel costs, priority will be given to students who live more than 2 miles from the College campus site that they are enrolled. Distance will be calculated using the shortest safe walking distance as identified on Google maps.
- 9.5 Students will be issued with one travel pass (e-ticket) each term for the duration of their studies at College. In exceptional circumstances, students can be issued with a bus pass card which is required to be retained (including where courses/studies span more than one academic year). A £10 fee will be charged for replacement bus pass cards. Please note the bus pass card remains the property of the College and where a pass is no longer required a student is required to return this to Student Services.

For Nelson and Colne College campus only:

- 9.6 Students issued with a car park pass will not be entitled to a subsidised bus pass or other financial travel support.

EHCP Students

- 9.7 Students with an EHCP can apply to the Local Authority for support with travel, if it is detailed within the plan. If there are any unforeseen issues with Local Authority assessments, students can apply for temporary financial support from the College.
- 9.8 Any exceptional circumstances and Special Educational Needs that do not meet the Local Authority Transport Policy will be considered during assessment and through the appeals procedure where necessary. Please note that any appeals against a decision made by the Local Authority must be made to that Local Authority and not the College.

10. Trips and Visits

- 10.1 Financial support towards the cost of mandatory course trips and visits can be provided for bursary eligible students. The maximum contribution to any single trip/visit will not exceed £150.
- 10.2 Financial support towards the costs of non-mandatory trips and visits (e.g. theatre, cinema or museum visits) can be provided for bursary eligible students subject to the availability of bursary funds. The maximum contribution to any single trip/visit will not exceed £100.
- 10.3 Where financial support is provided, payment will be made through internal College transfers only.

11. Application and Eligibility Criteria

- 11.1 Application for financial assistance from the College's Bursary Funds must be made via the online application portal which can be accessed from the College websites. All new full-time applicants will be sent details on applying in their joining instructions. Applicants requiring support with their online application should contact the Student Services team.
- 11.2 All applications and supporting evidence are treated confidentially.
- 11.3 Applications will only be processed from enrolled students as defined by the College. Students must make their application as soon as possible as funds are limited and will be paid on a 'first come, first served' basis.
- 11.4 All funds are means-tested and applicants will be required to provide evidence that their household income is less than £31,496 (excluding Care to Learn and applicants with additional household dependents see 10.4). However exceptional circumstances will be taken into consideration.
- 11.5 The number of dependent children/adults living at the same household as the applicant is taken into consideration as the College recognises additional household living costs. The College will allow a further £1,821 per dependent child/adult (in addition to the £31,496 threshold).
- 11.6 All income and benefits (including housing benefit, council tax benefit, child tax credit, universal credit etc.) are considered. However, the College does not consider Child

Benefit, Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment when calculating total household income.

- 11.7 For parents/guardians or students who are self - employed, the College will assess income based on Gross Profit, taking in to account any business expenditure. For example, household items, mortgage and food would not be deducted from Gross Profit but stationery and machinery servicing would be deducted.
- 11.8 An assessment is made based on a completed application detailing income from employment and/or benefits along with supporting evidence of all declared income. It may be necessary for students to discuss their circumstances with a member of Student Services team or Safeguarding and Prevent team.
- 11.9 In order for funding to be awarded, the College expects students to adhere to the College standards for behaviour and attendance to be met. The College may withhold or retrieve money paid from a bursary fund where a student:
- is involved in disciplinary proceedings;
 - has been absent for a period of 4 continuous weeks or more (excluding holidays);
 - has decided to withdraw from their study programme
- 11.10 Please refer to Appendix 1 for the bursary support available including maximum awards. Please note each application is assessed individually and awards are based on financial need, available funds and the ESFA funding rules and College policy.

12. Record Keeping, Complaints and Appeals

- 12.1 Bursary application forms, associated evidence provided, assessment and payment documentation will be retained for a period of 6 years after the end of this academic year. Please refer to the privacy notices on the College websites for further information or speak to a member of the Student Services team.
- 12.2 The College complies with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and associates Data Protection Legislation.
- 12.3 Should you have any reason not to be satisfied with how the College has handled your bursary application the College's Complaints Policy and Procedure should be followed. The Complaints Policy and Procedure and complaints form can be found on the College's websites:

Nelson Campus: www.nelson.ac.uk
Accrington Campus: www.accross.ac.uk
Lancashire Adult Learning: www.lal.ac.uk

Alternatively, you can contact the Student Services team in person at one of our College campuses or via email/phone:

Email: StudentServices@nelsongroup.ac.uk

Nelson campus: 01282 440209
Accrington campus: 01254 354143
Lancashire Adult Learning: 01254 354143

12.4 These procedures must be exhausted before a student/parent/guardian contacts the ESFA.

13 Dissemination

13.1 A copy of this policy can be found on:

- Nelson and Colne College website
- Accrington and Rossendale College website
- Lancashire Adult Learning website
- Nelson and Colne College Group Staff Hub
- Nelson and Colne College Moodle

14 Monitoring and Review

14.1 The policy will be reviewed annually by the Nelson and Colne College Group's Assistant Principal – Finance and HR

15 Related Policies/Procedures

15.1 Documents related to the policy are:

- Fees Policy 2021/22
- Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Additional Learning Support Policy
- Attendance Policy

16 Management Responsibility

16.1 Management responsibility for this policy rests with the Assistant Principal – Finance and HR, with the day to day implementation of this policy resting with the Finance Manager, Student Services Manager, Safeguarding and Prevent Manager and Dean of Higher Education.

Appendix 1

Support is subject to eligibility criteria, assessment and available funds.

All students are entitled to Free Fruit and a Free Healthy Breakfast.

The College will allow a further £1,821 per dependent child/adult, in addition to the £31,496 household income threshold stated below.

| Bursary Fund | What Students can get (subject to available funds) | Eligibility requirements (See policy for further detailed eligibility information) |
|--|---|--|
| ESFA 16 – 19 Bursary Fund | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Travel Pass including evenings and weekends; or • Travel grant of up to £560 per year • Free Kit/Equipment/Uniform/Books • Free UCAS Fees • Mandatory trip costs covered up to a maximum of £150 • Support with industry placements • Hardship support | Household income less than £31,496 per year as evidenced by proof of parent/guardian income or eligible benefit evidence. |
| ESFA 16 – 19 Vulnerable Bursary Fund | Up to £1200 of support that can be used for travel and/or kit/equipment/uniform. Bursary paid every month. | Defined Vulnerable groups only. |
| ESFA 16 – 19 Free Meals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A free daily lunch up to the value of £3.00 per day | Specific benefit evidence as set out by the Government to show unemployment or low household income |
| Care to Learn Scheme (Childcare) | Help with childcare costs up to a maximum of £160 per child per week. | Under 20 years old at course start date. |
| Apprenticeship Bursary for Care Leavers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1000 one off payment | Been in the care of a local authority. |
| ESFA Adult Education Budget (AEB) Learner Support Fund | Help with childcare costs up to a maximum of: £180 per week - term time (1 child) £308 per week - term time (2+ children) £80 non-term time (excluding summer holidays) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Travel/Kit/Equipment/Uniform/Books • Hardship support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged 19 + on first day of course. • Household income of less than £31,496 per year • Enrolled on an AEB funded course. |
| Advanced Learner Loans Bursary | Help with childcare costs up to a maximum of: £180 per week - term time (1 child) £308 per week - term time (2+ children) £80 non-term time (excluding summer holidays) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Travel/Kit/Equipment/Uniform/Books • Hardship support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged 19 + on first day of course. • Household income of less than £31,496 per year • In receipt of an Advanced Learner Loan. |
| Student Benefit Fund | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidised termly Transdev bus pass for £50 / £60 includes evening and weekend travel (College approved bus services only) • Subsidised College termly mini bus pass for £40 • Subsidised - Kit/Equipment/Uniform/ Books, up to a maximum cost of £150 • Hardship support | All Students. Individual circumstances considered. |