

Thomas Telford School



**16-19 Discretionary Bursary Fund
Information 2019-20**



Financial support for students in 2019/20

The following information applies to students aged at least 16 and under 19 on 31 August 2019.

What is the 16-19 Bursary Fund?

The fund is made available from the government to provide assistance to students whose access to, or completion of, education is inhibited by financial constraints or barriers.

Who is eligible to apply for 16-19 Bursary Funding?

Students following government (YPLA or SFA) funded full time or part-time courses, who are 16 years and over and satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

- Students aged at least 16 and under 19 years of age on 31/08/19 who are in care, are leaving care, are in direct receipt of Income Support (or the equivalent Universal Credit) or are disabled and in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance
- Students who are economically or socially disadvantaged and at risk of not taking up or continuing in their education. This group includes students with physical or other disabilities, medical conditions and/or learning difficulties
- Students who have been in care, on probation, are young parents or are otherwise considered at risk
- Lone parents

How does the School assess applications and allocate 16-19 Bursary funding?

There are 2 types of 16-19 Bursary Fund; vulnerable student bursary and discretionary bursary.

Vulnerable student bursary

Students aged under 19 on 31 August 2019 and who fall into at least one of the following categories:

- You are in or recently left local authority care
- You receive Income Support or Universal Credit because you're financially supporting yourself
- You receive Disability Living Allowance (DLA) in your name **and either** Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) or Universal Credit
- You receive Personal Independence Payment (PIP) in your name **and either** ESA or Universal Credit



Eligible students will be guaranteed a **£1200** bursary plus support for other costs such as transport, equipment etc.

Payments of equal value will be made on a monthly basis, in arrears, over 10 months.

Discretionary bursary

You could get a discretionary bursary if you need financial help but don't qualify for a vulnerable student bursary. The 16-19 Discretionary Bursary Fund is a limited fund and the School has discretion to prioritise allocation. There will be two priority groups, categorised as medium and low.

Medium priority group

Students who fall into the following category:

- Have a household income of below £18,000.

Eligible students in this group, if they apply to the 16–19 Discretionary Bursary Fund by **4 October 2019**, may be eligible for a contribution towards the cost of transport, essential course equipment, trips, uniforms, materials, etc.

The amount of bursary will be dependent on the number of applications of students who are eligible for consideration of support and the amount of funding available.

Eligibility is also dependent on meeting attendance, behaviour and academic performance criteria. That is:

- Good attendance over 97%
- Good conduct and module reports
- Meeting homework and coursework deadlines as set by teachers

NB: If a student does not meet these criteria during a module, it could lead to the loss of a monthly payment. Continued failure to meet criteria could lead to the loss of the remaining bursary.

Payments of equal value will be made on a monthly basis, in arrears, over 10 months.

Low priority group

- Have a gross annual household income between £18,001 and £25,000

Those in the low priority group will be considered for a bursary subject to available funding after those in the high and medium priority groups have been awarded. In some cases, awards may not be made until after 31 December 2019. Students in this group may get a **contribution** towards the cost of essential course equipment, uniforms and transport costs.

Two payments of equal value will be made at the end of the Autumn term, and at the end of the Spring term.

NB: All students who receive a bursary will be subject to monthly reviews. Any changes in circumstances could lead to a review of entitlement.