

FE bursary guidance 2025-26 for students aged 16-18

Learners enrolled have access to all essential materials, consumables, kit, equipment, tools, etc to complete their programme. You are not required to purchase any additional items, you are free to purchase your own premium items at your own cost.

Bursary	To be eligible you must....	You could get....
	<p>General requirements: <i>You must meet the General requirements and the Specific requirements for each bursary you apply for</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a home student • Have a net annual household income of £30,000 or less with a single child in the household, plus £1,700 for each additional dependent child aged 18 and under living at the same address. • Provide evidence of household income or benefit and your financial independence (where necessary) • Asylum Seekers do not need to provide evidence of household income. <p>Please note: If you do not provide the required evidence in full (as detailed in section 2 of the application form), we will not be able to assess your application. Please be sure to attach a copy of all your evidence with your form.</p>	
Travel bursary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be attending the nearest college offering the course to meet your learning aim. • Live more than 3 miles walking distance from college (using Google maps). • Apply by 11th August 2025 to ensure your pass is available at the start of term. <p>N.B. Bursary funds support travel to the nearest campus offering the course and does not support journeys over 30 miles. Students needing specialist transport due to them having an EHCP plan should contact their Local Authority.</p> <p>The maximum travel bursary award is £2,200</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help with travel costs to and from the nearest Activate Learning Campus offering the course; either a travel pass or travel expenses paid into your bank account, whichever is most cost-effective. If we do not have a purchasing agreement with your travel company, you will be awarded travel expenses. <p>Travel Pass</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will provide a travel pass for your selected journey(s) and travel provider(s). • We will support with one change of travel pass due to relocation in an academic year. • Students needing to walk more than 3 miles in total for their journey to college, may be supported with an additional travel pass if available. <p>Travel Expenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where travel expenses are awarded for travel on public transport, 3 travel receipts evidencing the cost of travel must be provided before the funds will be awarded. receipts evidencing the cost of travel must be provided within 2 weeks of receiving an email confirming the award. Receipts must also be provided at the start of each term. • Travel expenses for train journeys are awarded on the basis that you have a rail card if you are eligible for one. • Travel expenses are paid in advance every fortnight during term times. • 25p per mile will be paid for fuel in exceptional circumstances. • Bursary funds do not support the cost of taxis. • If you use SEN transport provided by the County Council when you provide a copy of the Local Authorities invoice, we will award expenses towards your contribution. SEN transport invoices need to be provided by the end of November 2025. • Travel bursary payments will not be backdated. <p>When you complete or withdraw from your course travel passes must be returned to the Advice Centre near Reception. If not returned you will be charged for the remaining cost of the pass.</p>
Course costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are awarded a bursary faculty will provide you with essential items, for the course once ordered and paid for with bursary funds. • You do not need to apply for items identified by faculty as being essential to your course. • If you need support paying for essential specialist protective clothing that needs to be fitted, UCAS fees, AAT membership fee, university open events/ interviews, exam resits, submit a course costs form detailing the items you need support with and attach receipts. 	<p>Essential equipment and materials needed for your course are provided, so bursary funds do not support these costs. Students are free to purchase their own items for the course at their own cost.</p> <p>We will award bursary funds to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reimburse faculty for essential items they provide for your course that cannot be borrowed, such as specialist protective clothing. • Support essential UK field trips without you having to pay a trip fee. Inform the Adviser who enrolls you onto the trip code that you have a bursary, and funds will be allocated to pay for the trip. • Reimburse you for the cost of attending university open events / interviews and if you need to pay for exam resits when you have provided receipts. <p>If you have been awarded a bursary, faculty will provide you with the items you need for the course once they have been ordered and paid for with bursary funds.</p> <p>Bursary funds do not support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment and materials that can be borrowed from college • Laptops or any other IT equipment. Laptops can be borrowed from Faculty or are available to use in our Learning Environments • General living costs, extra-curricular activities, non-essential activities or to provide learning support such as counselling, mentoring or extra tutoring or stationery. <p>When you complete or withdraw from your course all items purchased using bursary funds must be returned. Any equipment not returned will be charged.</p>

Bursaries for young people in defined vulnerable groups	<p>The defined vulnerable groups are students who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In care• Care leavers• Receiving Universal Credit (UC) 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 (DLA) or Personal Independence Payments (PIP) in their own right (the student) as well as Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) or UC in their own right (the student)• If you receive UC, you could ask your UC Work Coach for help providing evidence of receiving benefits <p>If you are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (or Personal Independence Payments) and Employment Support Allowance or Universal Credit, your parents can no longer receive certain household/family benefits, such as Child Benefit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students who are eligible for a bursary for vulnerable groups are not automatically awarded meal credits.• If you do not have an actual financial need because your costs have been met or because you have no relevant costs you may not be awarded a bursary for vulnerable groups.• If the study programme lasts for less than 30 weeks or if you are on a part-time programme you will be awarded a pro-rata amount.• Awards are made pro rata from the date the fully completed application was received.• This bursary will support the cost of attending college for additional days to use college IT equipment. It does not provide support to purchase laptops or other IT equipment.						
Bursary	To be eligible you must....	You could get....						
Meal credits	<p>Be aged 16-18 on 31 August 2025 or continuing on a study programme you began aged 16-18 or have an EHCP plan and be in receipt of one of the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Income Support• Income-based Jobseekers Allowance• Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)• Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999• The guarantee element of State Pension Credit• Child Tax Credit (provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs (HMRC))• Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after someone stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit• Universal Credit with net earnings not exceeding the equivalent of £7,400 pa (after tax and not including any benefits you get) <p>If you received free meals last year and we can confirm the award you will continue to be eligible for free meals if you let us know you need them. We may ask you to provide your free meal entitlement letter.</p> <p>N.B. Working Tax Credit is not a qualifying benefit for free meals</p> <p>Parents who are self-employed need to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Their UC award letter• A copy of their SA302 Tax calculation or their Company Registration form if the business is new• Evidence their net earnings do not exceed the UC threshold• Sign a self-declaration form to confirm their net earnings do not exceed £7,400	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students based at a campus take up their meal credits through college outlets, payment is made for their meal by presenting their ID card at the checkout.• If your course is based at a campus without a refectory, or you are on a work placement, you will be provided with fortnightly vouchers which you can use to obtain a supermarket voucher of your choice to buy food for lunch.• If you are eligible for Meal Credits and attend a placement you will need to provide details of your placement on a work/placement form.• If you are awarded for Meal Vouchers or Meal Credit Expenses, receipts evidencing the cost of your meals must be provided at the beginning of each term.						
Accommodation bursary	<p>Have a household income less than £35,000 and be enrolled on a specialist subject that is not available where you live e.g. land based and furniture course.</p> <p>N.B. The bursary does not support a student to participate in general FE provision that is widely available or to enable them to participate in additional activity, for example, to take part in a specific sport</p>	<p>A contribution paid directly to the landlord towards the costs of accommodation. Awards are based on individual circumstances and the type of accommodation and length of stay required.</p> <p>Support with accommodation for the academic year as follows:</p> <table><tr><th>Gross household income £</th><th>£ per year</th></tr><tr><td>Up to £30,000 or less with a single child in the household, (plus £1,700 for each additional dependent child aged 18 and under living at the same address).</td><td>Up to £4,500</td></tr><tr><td>£30,001 - £35,000 with a single child in the household (plus £1,700 for each additional dependent child aged 18 and under living at the same address).</td><td>Up to £4,000</td></tr></table> <p>We do not support travel from home to accommodation</p> <p>N.B. Where students leave part way through the year, are excluded from their accommodation or change their course to a non- specialist subject their accommodation bursary payments will stop on the date they left their course, were excluded, or enrolled onto a non- specialist subject</p>	Gross household income £	£ per year	Up to £30,000 or less with a single child in the household, (plus £1,700 for each additional dependent child aged 18 and under living at the same address).	Up to £4,500	£30,001 - £35,000 with a single child in the household (plus £1,700 for each additional dependent child aged 18 and under living at the same address).	Up to £4,000
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Care to Learn Grant Funding	<p>Care to Learn eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are a parent under 20 at the start of your course • You're the main carer for your child and in receipt of Child Benefit • You live and study in England • Be enrolled on a publicly funded study programme in England • Your childcare provider is Ofsted registered <p>• You have checked Homepage Childcare Choices and taken up any other government childcare support before applying for Care to Learn.</p> <p>You will need to complete a Childcare Provider form and provide evidence that you receive Child Benefit or a copy of your child's birth certificate to febursaries@activatelearning.ac.uk</p> <p>Both students and the childcare provider must return our signed Terms and Conditions before invoices can be paid</p>	<p>You can get up to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £180 per child per week if you live outside London or up to £195.00 if you live in London <p>Care to Learn can help with the cost of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your childcare, including deposit and registration fees • Keeping your childcare place over the summer holidays • Taking your child to their childcare provider • Independent study time where it is required as part of your study programme • Time needed to undertake work experience or industry placements that have been identified as part of your study programme • Bursary funds are paid directly to your childcare provider after we have received their monthly or termly invoice, which must include confirmation of your child's attendance. We will also check the student's attendance as part of the process. Please note that no bursary funds are paid directly to the student.
Childcare Bursary	<p>Have been awarded a maximum Care to Learn payment of £180 per week and have weekly childcare fees of more than £180 per week.</p> <p>You will need to complete a Childcare Provider form and provide evidence that you receive Child Benefit or a copy of your child's birth certificate to febursaries@activatelearning.ac.uk</p> <p>Both students and the childcare provider must return our signed Terms and Conditions before invoices can be paid</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help with the cost of your childcare if your childcare costs are more than £180 per week. • The maximum award is £50 / week. • Bursary funds are paid directly to your childcare provider after we have received their monthly or termly invoice, which must include confirmation of your child's attendance. We will also check the student's attendance as part of the process. Please note no bursary funds are paid directly to the student.