



Financial Support Bursaries, Free Meals & Childcare

If you choose to study at Blackpool Sixth, we will do everything possible to support you

There is a variety of financial support available to you during your time studying with us and this leaflet explains the different types of support schemes you could be entitled to. From bursaries, free meals and assistance with childcare, we are here to help.

College bursaries and free meals - the basics

What is a bursary?

The bursary is financial support that you can use to support your education at college. Financial support is government money administered by the college to help and support 16-19 year old students in further education. The fund is to support students, particularly those who are economically or socially disadvantaged with course-related costs.

What we offer at Blackpool Sixth

There are 3 parts to the financial support available to students:

1. **Bursary A (vulnerable bursary)** - available to specific vulnerable groups
2. **Bursary B (free meal discretionary bursary)** - benefits based
3. **Bursary C (discretionary bursary only)** - based on household income

You will only be eligible for one bursary at any one time.

Bursary categories

1) Bursary A (vulnerable bursary)

Depending on individual need and assessment you could receive support that is equivalent to up to £1,200 per academic year if:

- you are a young person in care, including unaccompanied children seeking asylum
- you are a young care leaver
- you are a young person 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 is living with you such as a child or partner)
- you are a young person in receipt of Employment & Support Allowance (or Universal Credit as a replacement for ESA) and Disability Living Allowance (or a Personal Independence Payment) in your own right.

An individual assessment and meeting will take place with a member of our Student Finance team who will assess your circumstances and college related costs.

If you are living independently and not yourself in receipt of Income Support or Universal Credit, we may still be able to offer you financial support. Please speak to a member of the Student Finance team at college (see contact details below).

2) Bursary B (free meal discretionary bursary)

You will qualify for free meals (in the form of a credit at a minimum of £2.41 per day) and the discretionary bursary if your parent(s)/carer(s) are in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of The Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed 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
- Universal Credit - from 1 April 2018, if a parent/carers is entitled to Universal Credit they must have an annual net earned income equivalent to and not exceeding £7,400 (after tax and not including any benefits you get), assessed on up to the last three of the parent(s)/carer(s) most recent Universal Credit assessment periods/statements, to be eligible.

You may be entitled to help towards the cost of:

- travel to and from college by either bus or train (if you live 1.5 miles or more from college)
- essential course equipment/devices (e.g. art materials)
- course-related books
- essential educational visits
- examination fees
- authorised university visits (e.g. university interviews)
- college arranged work experience related costs
- DBS checks where required for course related work experience

3) Bursary C (discretionary bursary only)

To qualify for Bursary C, parent(s)/carer(s) must be in receipt of either Working Tax Credit, with an annual gross income of no more than £16,190 or Universal Credit with net earnings less than £14,280 per annum. To be eligible, Universal Credit will be assessed on up to the last three of the parent(s)/carer(s) most recent Universal Credit assessment periods/statements.

You may be entitled to help towards the cost of:

- travel to and from college by either bus or train (if you live 1.5 miles or more from college)
- essential course equipment/devices (e.g. art materials)
- course-related books
- essential educational visits
- examination fees
- authorised university visits (e.g. university interviews)
- college arranged work experience related costs
- DBS checks where required for course related work experience

Applying for a bursary

New applications:

All applications for financial support are made online.

More information about how to apply for our bursaries is available on our website at <https://www.blackpoolsixth.ac.uk/student-support/>

Important: You must provide evidence of all income sources or benefit(s) you or your parent(s)/carer(s) receive. Please upload these documents in full onto the online portal as and when requested. You will not be able to complete an online bursary application without this evidence.

Previous applicants:

All students will have to **re-apply** for financial support each year even if they are currently receiving support as the bursary does not roll-over into the next academic year. Full up-to-date evidence will need to be provided with the new application form.

Please note, Blackpool Sixth cannot guarantee the level of support will continue into the following year. Current students will be sent more information on this over the summer break and a link to the online bursary application process. Please speak to a member of the Student Finance team at college if you need any assistance with completing your application.

Application approval process

Your application form will be assessed against the relevant criteria to confirm eligibility. Please ensure that you provide all pages of any document that is provided as evidence otherwise this will delay your application. If we require further evidence or information we will contact you.

You will be notified of the outcome of your application via a letter sent to your email address. If your application is successful, you will receive details of the type of support you have been awarded.

Please note that all support is subject to terms and conditions in accordance with the signed application form. Students who stop attending college or engaging in learning may lose their entitlement to financial support.

Bursary appeals process

Where the applicant is not satisfied with the original decision, an appeal can formally be made in writing within ten working days to the Head of Student Services, who is totally independent of the assessment process.

Appeals can be considered on the grounds of extenuating circumstances, which have not previously been disclosed, or new financial evidence that has not previously been considered. A photocopy of all pages of any additional evidence must be included with the appeal. Appeals will be assessed by the Head of Student Services and a decision notified to the applicant in writing within ten working days of receipt. This decision is final.

Support with childcare

If you are under the age of 20 and have one or more children, Care To Learn can help you with the cost of childcare whilst you are learning.

You can get Care To Learn if:

- you are a parent under the age of 20 at the start of your course
- you are the main carer for your child
- you live in England

- you are either a British citizen or a national of a European Economic Area (EEA) country (<https://www.gov.uk/eu-eea>)
- your course qualifies (all courses at the Blackpool Sixth qualify)
- your childcare provider is registered with Ofsted

Payments for childcare are made directly to the childcare provider. Payments for travel go directly to college and you will either be paid directly or college will arrange your travel. For more information on eligibility and an application form please contact either the Learner Support Helpline free on 0800 121 8989, visit www.gov.uk/care-to-learn or speak to the college's Welfare Officer.

Frequently asked questions

How will I get my bursary?

If you are eligible for Bursary A, an individual assessment and meeting will take place with a member of our Student Finance team who will assess your circumstances and college related costs.

If you are eligible for Bursary B or C, support will be provided via the college, based on the information and evidence provided in your application form, and your individual needs.

How will I get my free meals?

If you are eligible for free meals, a daily allowance will be added to your college catering account for you to purchase food and/or drink from any of the food and drink outlets at college.

What if my circumstances change?

Blackpool Sixth understands that circumstances may change throughout the year. If there are changes to your household income during the year (e.g. a parent/carer loses their job), you can apply for a bursary or we can reassess the bursary support awarded to you at any time during your studies, based on your changing college needs. Please speak to a member of the Student Finance team.

New applications will also be accepted throughout the whole academic year.

What if I have to travel to college by train?

College can meet up to 40% of the cost of your train travel to and from college. Please speak to a member of the Student Finance team for more information.

Can I lose my bursary support?

Students who stop attending college or engaging in learning may lose their entitlement to financial support (see bursary policy and procedures 2020-21).

Attendance will be assessed at application and monitored closely throughout the academic year and if, upon review, attendance drops below an acceptable level, then some parts of your bursary support may be stopped.

Support with free meals and transport will not be affected by attendance and will remain in place as long as you are on roll at college.

Any questions that haven't been answered above?

If you require any help or advice on making a bursary application, please email the Student Finance team on student.finance@blackpoolsxith.ac.uk or call the team on 01253 394911.

We look forward to receiving your application

Terms and conditions

Confidentiality

When data is provided to us, we use it solely for the purpose for which it was supplied. Your information may be shared with college staff but we will not share your information with any other organisation.

Data Protection

The Blackpool Sixth Form College will use the information you have provided on this form to process your bursary application and it will not be used for additional purposes without your consent. The college will not share your data with any third party other than the catering company's designated data processor to discreetly manage free meals, and Blackpool Transport to provide bus passes when appropriate. The college will keep your details secure at all times. If you have any concerns regarding how your personal data is stored or used and would like more information, please talk to the college's Data Protection Officer.

Fraudulent claims

If you are awarded funding on the basis of false information, you will be asked to repay any money you were awarded. This will be subject to disciplinary proceedings and the matter may also be referred to the Department for Education and/or the Police.

Disclaimer

All of the information in the guidance is accurate at the time of publication. Please note that if you withdraw from your course, payments will stop and the college may take the necessary steps to reclaim any monies that were issued.