



## Financial Support Policy 2025/26



Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to establish the principles by which financial support will be distributed for the following funds:

- 16-19 Bursary Fund (Discretionary) including Free College Meals.
- 16-19 Bursary Fund (Vulnerable)
- 19+ Learner Support Fund
- Adult Loans Bursary Fund
- Hardship fund.

Financial support is designed to help students facing financial hardship overcome specific barriers to participation to they can remain in education. These funds are allocated to the College on an annual basis. Please see Appendix A for specific annual figures.

### **16-19 Bursary Fund (Discretionary) including Free College Meals**

This fund is discretionary and therefore is allocated in accordance with funding guidance and criteria set by the College.

Students applying for this fund must meet the following criteria:

- Be aged 16 or over and under 19 and 31st August in the academic year in which they start their programme of study, or aged 19 or over if they are continuing a study programme that they began aged 16 to 18 (19+ continuers) or have an Education, Health Care Plan (EHCP)
- Free College Meals are available to learners who are aged between 16 and 18 (or 19+ continuer or 19+ with an EHCP) and in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of various means tested benefits (as set out in the "Free Meals in Further Education" guidance).

### **16-19 Bursary Fund (Vulnerable)**

Students who meet one of the 4 criteria below (plus the above criteria for age and residency, this excludes anyone over the age of 19 on the 31st August in the academic year in which they start their programme) and who have a financial need, can apply for a bursary of up to £1,200 per year (only if on a study programme that lasts for 30 weeks or more; a pro-rata amount is paid to students on study programmes of less than 30 weeks).

The defined vulnerable groups are students who are:

- In Care (looked after young people).
- Care Leavers (previously looked after young people).
- Receiving Income Support or Universal Credit because they are financially supporting themselves or financially supporting themselves and someone who is dependent on them living with them such as a child or partner.
- 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.

### **19+ Learner Support Fund**

Students applying for this fund must meet the following criteria:

- 19 or over on 31st August in the academic year in which they start their programme of study.
- Studying a course funded by the Adult Education Budget from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

### **Adult Learner Loan Bursary Fund**

Students applying for this fund must meet the following criteria:

- Have received approval on their Advanced Learner Loan.

### **Hardship Bursary Fund**

This may be accessed for students in exceptional circumstances, which will affect their ability to attend college and participate in their course.

### **Evidence of Need:**

Truro and Penwith College will obtain proof in line with Government guidance, that a student meets the eligibility criteria and assess the student's need for financial support.

### **Administration of the Funds:**

All funds are allocated in accordance with the Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) guidance and are subject to the College's governance and audit regimes.

In line with national guidance, the College may use up to 5% of the 16-19 Bursary fund allocation on administrative costs.

All students wishing to apply for financial support should complete the application form and provide relevant evidence and information.

Financial support applications are assessed individually using the eligibility criteria, government guidance and relevant evidence.

Financial support awards for the following awards are dependent on funding the College receives. Early application is advisable, as funds are limited, and financial support may not be offered in all circumstances. The College has the right to close the application process due to insufficient funds.

Receipt of financial support awards is conditional on student's adherence to the Students Learning Agreement and Student Code of Conduct. Failure to meet the conditions of attendance, behaviour and punctuality could result in the award being withdrawn. The College reserves the right to withdraw funding at any point.

Applications without sufficient evidence will not be processed, causing delays.

Applications can take up to 28 working days to process; refunds are unlikely to be repaid until the end of October.

### **3.2 Appeals and Complaints**

If a student wishes to appeal against any decision relating to financial support, then the appeals procedure below should be followed:

- Appeal in writing to the Team Leader for Student Services within 7 days of being notified of the award.
- A response will be provided within 7 days.

If a student wishes to make a complaint relating to financial support, the College Complaints procedure should be followed.

## **APPENDIX A**

Initial assessment of banding based on evidence of income and actual participation costs. Maximum awards within bandings based on further assessment of actual financial need to participate.

### **16-19 Bursary Fund (Discretionary)**

#### **For Household Income under £25,000:**

- Pay £150 per year for bus pass
- If not receiving WTC, and earnings are below £16,190pa then get FSM to the value of up to £4.00 per day.
- Receive FSM if on UC and earning less than £7,400pa
- Help with equipment: reimbursement of 50% of the costs of your kit. Refund when provided with receipts after (October 31st)
- If doing art/photography/ media-based course- £80 shop voucher. If only one 'art based' A-level, then £40 awarded.
- Support with public transport or park and ride fees up to £50 per year for students attending a compulsory work experience who are unable to access their placement under their normal bus ticket. e.g. Bus timetable does not operate early enough to get to placement on time.

#### **For Household Income £25,001 - £35,000:**

- Pay £400 per year for bus pass
- Help with equipment: reimbursement of 50% of the costs of your kit. Refund when provided with receipts after (October 31st)

#### **For Household Income £35,001 - £50,000:**

Pay maximum of £750 per year for bus pass

#### **For Household Income £50,000+:**

Pay maximum of £850 per year for bus pass

### **19+ continuers**

Students over 19 who are continuing the second year of a 2-year course will be funded as above.

### **16-19 Bursary Fund (Vulnerable)**

For In Care/Care Leaver/Independent on UC/Claiming ESA & PIP or DLA where actual participation costs have been assessed:

- Free bus pass
- FSM to the value of £4.00 per day
- Help with equipment (As A & B banding).
- If doing art/photography - £80 shop voucher/ £40 for one Art A level.
- Help with equipment: reimbursement of 50% of the costs of your kit. Refunded by receipts after (31 October).
- Support with public transport or park and ride fees up to £50 per year for students attending a compulsory work experience who are unable to access their placement under their normal bus ticket. E.g. Bus timetable does not operate early enough to get to placement on time.

### **19+ learners (Level 2)**

For Household Income under £25,000 where actual participation costs have been assessed:

- Pay £150 per year for bus pass
- If income under £16,190 and not receiving WTC, then get FSM to the value of £4.00 per day.
- Receive FSM if on UC and earnings less than £7,400 per year.

For Household Income £25,001 - £35,000:

Pay £400 per year for bus pass

For Household Income £35,001-£50,000:

Pay £750 per year for bus pass

For Household Income £50,000+:

Pay maximum of £850 per year for bus pass

### **19+ Learner (Level 3/ Access):**

For Household Income under £35,000 pa

- Free bus pass or maximum of £17 per week for fuel (mileage based)
- FSM to the value of £4.00 per day
- Help with equipment: refund of 50% refunded when provided with receipts
- If doing art/photography - £80 shop voucher
- Childcare

### **19+ Adult Learner Loan (Access)**

For Household Income under £35,000 pa

- Free bus pass or maximum of £17 per week for fuel (mileage based)
- FSM to the value of £4.00 per day
- Help with equipment: refund of 50% refunded when provided with receipts
- If doing art/photography - £80 shop voucher
- Childcare

### **19+ Adult Learner (P/T course)**

For Household Income under £35,000 pa

- One off refund of up to £100 towards course kit/equipment/registration/travel.
- Childcare

\*Any awards in addition to the policy as stated above will be made on an individual basis at the discretion of the college.