

Discretionary financial support information for adult learners

Academic Year 2019-2020

The 19+ Discretionary Fund and Loans Bursary Fund are government schemes set up to help those facing financial hardship to stay in full-time education.

Upon assessment the student must:

- Have a current enrolment for the academic year
- Be enrolled on a funded course
- Not be enrolled on a Work Based Learning or Apprenticeship course
- Not be enrolled on a Higher Education course i.e. HND or HNC
- If studying a course that is eligible for the Advanced Learner Loan you must have applied for this and been accepted
- Be able to provide sufficient evidence of a household income that's less than £25,000 and meet all funding criteria

This Discretionary Fund can assist with the following:

Essential course related books, equipment, uniform and DBS fees

One off payments can be made to support the cost of essential materials such as text books or uniform.

Travel Expenses

For students wishing to apply for support towards their travel expenses, they must live over 2 miles from their college campus. The Student Financial Support team will then assess each claim individually, via the cheapest form of public transport; therefore the monthly amount awarded can vary from student to student.

Childcare

The college may be able to contribute towards to cost of your childcare during term time only, for the days you are timetabled to attend college. Payments are made directly to the childcare provider of your choice, however they must be Ofsted registered. It is possible to pay more than one provider, you will just need to inform a member of the team when you apply. Please be aware that there is no support for deposits, holding fees, taster sessions or administration fees.

Course fee support

For students who are required to pay their course fees the college may be able to offer support for up to 50% of the tuition fee cost. A Course Fee Exemption form would be required alongside the standard application form, both of which can be acquired from the Student Financial Support team.

Regular Bursary Payments

These payments will usually be made on a monthly basis subject to satisfactory attendance, progress and conduct in college.

Process

Students should collect an application form from the Student Financial Support team located along Advice Street, or from the Administration Office if studying at the Technical Skills Academy. The application must then be fully completed and submitted to a member of the Student Financial Support team with all required supporting evidence; a full list of evidence required is listed within the funding application.

A member of the Student Financial Support team will then complete a full assessment and consider all funding requested, this process should take no longer than 15 working days.

Payments are usually made by monthly BACS into the student's bank account. There are exceptions to this depending on the financial support awarded, for example some equipment expenses may be paid directly to the curriculum area.

We will try and dispense our allocation of the discretionary funds as fairly as we can but we cannot guarantee that all claims will be successful or to the desired level. We strongly encourage all students to have returned their application form by the 18th October 2019. The application process may re-open after this date, subject to funding, and applications will still be considered but may receive lower priority.

For more information or guidance please contact the Student Financial Support department:

Telephone – 020 3667 0050

Email – student.financesupport@bdc.ac.uk

Opening hours to submit paperwork – Monday to Friday 8.30am – 12.00pm

Opening Hours for enquires - Monday to Friday, 8.30am – 5.00pm