



TyneCoastCollege

Bursary Policy 2025-2026

This policy is available on-line at: www.tynecoast.ac.uk

- We will consider any request for this policy to be made available in an alternative format or language. Please contact: Head of Student Services, Inclusion and Safeguarding
- We review our policies regularly to update them and to ensure that they are accessible and fair to all. We welcome suggestions for improving the accessibility or fairness of this policy.

Approved by:	Version:	Issue Date:	Review Date:	Contact Person:
Executive Group, ED&I Group, F&R, Board	15	July 2025	July 2026	Head of Student Services, Inclusion and Safeguarding

POLICY NUMBER 1

Bursary Policy

1 Policy Statement

Tyne Coast College promotes equality, diversity, inclusion and social mobility, this Policy covers College bursary funding which is designed to help support students who face the greatest barriers to continuing in education or training post-16. The Policy outlines the College's statutory responsibilities with regards to the administration and distribution of the fund as well as student eligibility.

This policy covers the following financial student support funds which are available to eligible students. Students who apply for funds will be assessed and funds awarded based on individual financial need. The College receives an allocation to enable the provision of 16-19 Bursary Fund and AEB Learner Support Fund. For ease of reference the finite detail of eligibility is outlined in Appendix 1.

2 Aim

The aim of the funds is to assist eligible students to take part in or continue in learning. All payments are subject to satisfactory feedback from a course tutor, having an attendance record of at least 85%¹ and be up to date with course work.

3 Eligibility

3.1 To qualify **all** students must be studying on a course that is subject to inspection by a public body such as Ofsted, the course must be funded directly by ESFA or the European Social Fund and in addition satisfy the following criteria:

- A 'home' student who meets the residency requirements.
- Must be aged 16 or over but under 19 on the 31st August 2025.
- Be on a full-time course and/or substantial part-time course
- Be in receipt of income assessed state benefits/tax credits (including Universal Credits) or have an annual gross household income of:
 - For **16-19 students (or have an EHCP)** - £40,000 and below.
 - For **19+ students (AEB)** - £30,000 or below
 - Have an entitlement to Free College Meals

3.2 Students on apprenticeship programmes, or any waged training, are employed, rather than in education, are not eligible for the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund.

3.3 Students studying on the Marine Pre-cadetship or a TyneMet specialist sport course (Football/Rugby) course aged 16-18 or a 19+ continuer will be able to apply to the Residential Bursary for help towards Halls of Residence fees. This can be applied for

¹ We understand that some students may not be able to achieve 85% attendance due to exceptional circumstances and therefore eligibility regarding attendance may be looked at on an individual basis. The attendance threshold is set across the whole study programme and includes English and maths and Personal development where applicable.

directly with Winterbottom Halls staff. Their home/parental address must be more than one hour per single journey from the college, to be eligible for residential bursary support.

- 3.4 In cases of exceptional hardship, or where emergency help is required, the college will consider individual circumstances on a case-by-case basis. The college reserves the right to apply discretion to ensure that students' needs, and personal circumstances are taken into account when decisions are made.
- 3.5 Awards must be utilised within 30 days of notification otherwise they may be subject to redistribution to subsequent eligible students.
- 3.6 Accompanied asylum-seeking children (with agreed asylum) are eligible for college 16-18 bursary but awards must be made in kind and under no circumstances should any cash be given, unless accompanied; Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have an automatic status as LAC, they can be awarded the Vulnerable Bursary. 19+ asylum seekers who are eligible for support can be awarded in kind (travel pass) or cash.
- 3.7 Supporting industry placements: students undertaking industry placements who are not already eligible for bursary and are facing financial difficulties due to incurring extra participation costs, can access travel support during that period, required to complete the placement module of their course.
- 3.8 We do not expect students on distance learning provision to need help from the bursary fund because they do not have the kinds of costs the bursary is intended to cover (travel, equipment, and uniforms, for example). In the rare instances where an institution identifies such a student does require financial help, you should provide support in-kind. An example could be providing a temporary travel pass for the student to attend exams.

4 Payments and Application

- 4.1 Students will be expected to complete an online application form for all funds, including uploading evidence to support the relevant criteria.
- 4.2 The College will seek to make payments in kind, for example by providing a travel pass, food voucher. Where this is not possible, and a cash payment must be made this will be done to the student's personal bank account. Where payments are made, it is good practice to make these on a regular basis (weekly, for example) as this helps students manage their finances. It also means that if a student has a payment withheld due to failing to meet the conditions we have set, they will not be left without financial support for a long period
- 4.3 The College will make regular payments to students which may vary alongside the students' needs to help them manage their finances and support their regular attendance at college.
- 4.4. The college will not make large or lump sum payments to students.

- 4.5. The college will award students based on their participation needs and not make flat or fixed rate payments to students that do not reflect the actual costs they face.

5 Responsibilities

- The Head of Student Services and Safeguarding, alongside the Head of Finance are accountable for the implementation of the policy and responsibility for ensuring funds are administered in line with ESFA Funding Guidance.
- Curriculum departments are responsible for publishing an annual statement outlining mandatory requirements for courses which will include kit, equipment, uniform, mandatory visits and trips, UCAS fees or other mandatory course related costs.
- The Student Finance Team Leader , supported by the Student Finance Officers, are responsible for assessing applications and administering all funds.
- All staff are responsible for promoting college Bursary funds to ensure all students are aware of what support is available for them to access college.

6 Monitoring & Evaluation

- 6.1 The College will implement administration procedures that record bursary applications and awards (including the number, value, purpose, whether awarded or not, and a brief justification).
- 6.2 The effective use of the funds will be monitored and evaluated through:
- Internal audit – annual
 - ESFA annual returns and audit
 - Feedback from students
 - Effectiveness of forecasting and budget monitoring
 - Annual review of this policy

7 Appeals

- 7.1 Students/Parents dissatisfied with the award made or the refusal of a regular payment based on attendance, achievement and conduct can make a formal appeal in writing to the Student Finance Team Leader.
- 7.2 Appeals will be considered by an independent panel consisting of at least two additional members of staff one of which must be either an Assistant Principal or Head of Student Services and Safeguarding.

8 Related Documents

College Charter.
Student Behaviour Policy.
Student Fund Application Form.

Appendix 1

A. Eligibility Criteria for all Support Funds

Support for Students aged 16-19 (or students aged 19-24 with an EHCP)	Support for Students aged 19 and over
<p>In considering support for students under all sections of Appendix 1 of this policy, a student must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be aged 16 or over but under 19 on 31 August 2025or• Be aged 19 or over at the 31 August 2025and have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or• Be aged 19 or over on 31 August 2025 and continuing a study programme that they began aged 16,17,18yrs• Be a Young carer• Be enrolled on a full-time course or substantial part time course (awards will be awarded pro-rata)• Have an attendance record of at least 85% and receive a satisfactory tutor report	<p>In considering support for students under all parts of Appendix 1 of this policy, a student must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be aged 19 or over on 31 August 2025• Be enrolled on a full-time course or substantial part time course• Have an attendance record of at least 85% and receive a satisfactory tutor report

B. Vulnerable Bursary Scheme – Students in Care/Care Leavers

Support for Students aged 16-19 (or students aged 19-24 with an EHCP)	Support for Students aged 19 and over
<p>Students who meet the eligibility criteria set in section A and meet the following criteria may be eligible for the Vulnerable Bursary Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in care - be a care leaver <p>A 'care leaver' is defined as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a young person aged 16 and 17 who was previously looked after for a period of 13 weeks consecutively (or periods amounting to 13 weeks), which began after the age of 14 and ended after the age of 16; or 2. a young person aged 18 or above who was looked after prior to becoming 18 for a period of 13 weeks consecutively (or periods amounting to 13 weeks), which began after the age of 14 and ended after the age of 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in receipt of Income Support or Universal Credit because they are financially supporting themselves or financially support themselves and someone who is dependent on them such as a child or partner. - Receiving Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence payment in their own right, alongside Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit in their own right. (Must be receiving both benefits to be eligible) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The maximum bursary is £1,200 (pro-rata) and based on participational need. • A student receiving support under the Vulnerable Bursary Scheme will not be eligible to receive support via any other bursary schemes operated by the College, unless the College deem there to be exceptional circumstances. • Subject to meeting, and continuing to meet, the above eligibility criteria, the 	<p>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students aged 19 and continuing on a study programme that they began aged 16,17,18yrs will be eligible for vulnerable bursary under the same eligibility criteria as a student aged 16-18. - All other students aged 19 or over will not be entitled to vulnerable bursary.

college will pay the Vulnerable Bursary in weekly payments to students.

*This funding is not guaranteed. Students who are in this vulnerable group are not automatically entitled to the bursary.

C. Hardship Bursary Scheme

Support for Students aged 16-19 (or students aged 19-24 with an EHCP)	Support for Students aged 19 and over
<p>Students who meet the eligibility criteria set in section A and have a gross household income of less than £40,000 in the previous tax year may be eligible for support under this scheme.</p> <p>The scheme seeks to support the essential costs for the following course related costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform, books, course equipment or specialist clothing such as protective overalls (internally recharged to department, not paid direct to student) • Mandatory extra-curricular costs • Essential trips • Work Placement costs/Industry Placement costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University trips/visits/UCAS Fees • Subject to meeting the above criteria the College will seek to pay the discretionary fund in weekly payments across the academic year. • In cases of exceptional hardship, or where emergency help is required, the college will consider individual circumstances on a case-by-case basis. The college reserves the right to apply discretion to ensure that students' needs, and personal circumstances are taken in to account when decisions are made. • Specialist tuition provided by external organisations, courses that are externally delivered and certified and using bursary for operational costs other than bursary admin are deemed as ineligible purchases. 	<p>Students who meet the eligibility criteria set in section A and meet the following criteria may be eligible for the 19+ Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Studying up to Level 2 - Aged 19 or over on first Level 3 course - have a gross household income of less than £30,000 may be eligible for support under this scheme. <p>The scheme seeks to support the costs of the following course related costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course related costs including books trips and course equipment. (Internally recharged to department, not paid directly to student) • Transport Costs • Examination and professional membership fees to external bodies. • 20+ Childcare Funding • Care to Learn top up for 19 year olds. • Subject to meeting the above criteria the College will seek to pay the discretionary fund in weekly payments across the academic year. • In cases of exceptional hardship, or where emergency help is required, the college will consider individual circumstances on a case-by-case basis. The college reserves the right to apply discretion to ensure that students' needs, and personal circumstances are taken in to account when decisions are made.

D. Free College Meal Scheme

Support for Students aged 16-19 (or students aged 19-24 with an EHCP)	Support for Students aged 19 and over
<p>Students who meet the eligibility criteria set in section A and meet the following criteria may be eligible for Free College Meals:</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 guaranteed element of State Pension Credit - Universal Credit with net earnings not exceeding the equivalent of £7,400 each year (after tax and not including any benefits they get) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to meeting the above criteria the College will seek to provide £5.00 per day of study by electronic transfer to the student ID card. <p>Transitional protection no longer applies. The protection meant that all students already receiving free meals on or after 1 April 2018, continued to be eligible to receive free meals up until March 2025 and then until the end of their phase of education.</p>	<p>Students aged 19 and over are not eligible for the Free College Meal Scheme unless the student has an Education Health Care Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where the College deems a student's circumstances exceptional, vouchers for students aged 19+ may be provided via the Hardship Bursary. • 19+ students, studying a full-time course can be awarded meal allowance; this will be funded by 19+ DLSF bursary fund and recharged back to FSM budget.

E. Travel Support Scheme

Support for Students aged 16-19 (or students aged 19-24 with an EHCP)	Support for Students aged 19 and over
<p>Students who meet the eligibility criteria set in section A and have a gross household income of less than £40,000 in the previous tax year may be eligible for support under this scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students eligible for support from the bursary must live more than one mile away from their chosen site of study in order to be eligible for travel funding from the college bursary. • Subject to meeting the above criteria the College will seek to provide a travel cost in line with timetabled days, times and distance travelled. This will be assessed on an individual basis. • The college will seek to provide travel assistance to those eligible students who are unable to travel independently because of a medical condition or Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). The college will provide support in the form of a four weekly bus pass. Students are required to submit up to date, written supporting evidence from a doctor or other relevant health professional, stating specifically that the student is unable to travel independently, along with the application form. 	<p>Students who satisfy the eligibility criteria set out in Section A and C may be eligible for support under this scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students eligible for support from the bursary must live more than one mile away from their chosen site of study in order to be eligible for free travel vouchers. • Subject to meeting the above criteria the College will seek to provide a travel cost in line with timetabled days, times and distance travelled. This will be assessed on an individual basis and paid weekly. • . • The college will seek to provide travel assistance to those eligible students who are unable to travel independently because of a medical condition or Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). The college will provide support in the form of a four weekly bus pass.. Students are required to submit up to date, written supporting evidence from a doctor or other relevant health professional, stating specifically that the student is unable to travel independently, along with the application form.

F. Childcare Support Scheme

Support for Students Under 20	Support for Students over 20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students aged under 20 at the start of their course, may be eligible to apply for the Government's "Care to Learn" Scheme The Care to Learn Scheme is not a Tyne Coast College Scheme, but guidance on the application process and eligibility criteria can be obtained from the Student Finance Officer on 0191 229 5211 <p>Students aged 16-19 on the 31st August 2025 may be eligible for support with childcare costs if they satisfy the General Eligibility Criteria in Section A and C. There is no entitlement to Childcare support and each application will be assessed on an individual basis.</p> <p>The support to eligible students will be provided on the following basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The childcare provider who is receiving payment via the Student Support Fund must be registered with Ofsted. - Where students are required to pay retainer fees in order to retain the place in the nursery in non-term time, for example Christmas, Easter, half terms, it is vital that this information is reflected in any application of childcare support. - The College will only pay a retainer fee, which equates to no more than 50% of the fees normally incurred in term time. - If a student engages in employment during the non-term times, they are not eligible to receive support via the Student Support Fund during the period of employment. Childcare payments are normally available only to support attendance at College classes/tutorials/placements with the exception of retainer fees. In exceptional circumstances the College may consider an extension to this to allow completion of academic work. - The College payments will be solely for childcare and there will be no payment for penalty charges which are levied by some providers (e.g. late payment fees). Where insufficient notice is provided to the Childcare provider by the parents, the College will not meet the payment for this notice period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students aged 20 and above on the 31st August 2025 may be eligible for support with childcare costs if they satisfy the General Eligibility Criteria in Section A and C. There is no entitlement to Childcare support and each application will be assessed on an individual basis. <p>The support to eligible students will be provided on the following basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The childcare provider who is receiving payment via the Student Support Fund must be registered with Ofsted. - Where students are required to pay retainer fees in order to retain the place in the nursery in non-term time, for example Christmas, Easter, half terms, it is vital that this information is reflected in any application of childcare support. - The College will only pay a retainer fee, which equates to no more than 50% of the fees normally incurred in term time. - If a student engages in employment during the non-term times, they are not eligible to receive support via the Student Support Fund during the period of employment. Childcare payments are normally available only to support attendance at College classes/tutorials/placements with the exception of retainer fees. In exceptional circumstances the College may consider an extension to this to allow completion of academic work. - The College payments will be solely for childcare and there will be no payment for penalty charges which are levied by some providers (e.g. late payment fees). Where insufficient notice is provided to the Childcare provider by the parents, the College will not meet the payment for this notice period. Each household will be limited to a maximum childcare support of £180 per child/per week. The student will be liable for any childcare costs incurred over and above the stated limits.

- Each household will be limited to a maximum childcare support of £180 per child/per week.

Temporary Addendum to Bursary Policy

Purpose

Tyne Coast College is committed to inclusion and providing support to those students who face financial hardship. Therefore, Tyne Coast College has made a temporary extension of the Eligibility Criteria to include two further groups of students where financial hardship may be experienced as a result of external factors. Those factors include:

- Financial hardship as a result of the ongoing cost of living crisis.
- Financial hardship due to the ongoing impact of the 2020 global pandemic. This includes any mental health/well-being as a result of the pandemic.

Aim

The aim of the extension of the criteria is to assist eligible students to take part in or continue in learning. All payments are subject to satisfactory feedback from a course tutor, a course attendance record of at least 85%² and be up to date with course work.

Eligibility

To qualify **all** students must be studying on a course that is subject to inspection by a public body such as Ofsted, the course must be funded directly by ESFA or the European Social Fund and in addition satisfy the following criteria:

- A 'home' student who meets the residency requirements;
- Meet the age requirements of the fund;
- Be on a full-time course and/or substantial part-time course
- Be in receipt of income assessed state benefits/tax credits (including Universal Credits) or have an annual gross household income of:
 - For **16-19 students (or 19-24 with an EHCP)** - £40,000 and below **or be able to demonstrate financial hardship as a result of the ongoing cost of living crisis.**
 - For **19+ students (AEB)** - £30,000 or below **or be able to demonstrate financial hardship as a result of the ongoing cost of living crisis.**

All other arrangements remain in accordance with the Tyne Coast College 2024/25 Bursary Policy.

The College reserves the right to decline applications where evidence to support the extended criteria is not available.

² We understand that some students may not be able to achieve 85% attendance due to exceptional circumstances and therefore eligibility regarding attendance may be looked at on an individual basis. The attendance threshold is set across the whole study programme and includes English and maths and Personal development where applicable.