

16-19 Vulnerable Bursary and Discretionary Bursary Guidance Notes 2017/2018

The 16-19 Bursary Fund was introduced by the government to help 16-19 year olds experiencing the greatest financial hardship to continue with their education. The scheme replaces the Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA). **Disclaimer** – all the information disclosed on these sheets is correct at the time of publication following Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) guidance 2017/2018.

If you are awarded a bursary, this will not affect any entitlement to any other DWP means-tested benefits. However if a student is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (or Personal Independent Payments) and Employment Support Allowance or in receipt of Universal Credit, parents can no longer receive certain household / family benefits for that child, such as child benefit.

Silverstone UTC will allocate bursary funds in accordance with the guidance issued by the ESFA. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/16-to-19-bursary-fund-guide-2017-to-2018-academic-year>

The 16-19 Student Bursary scheme is cash limited and can only be allocated whilst funding lasts. Funding cannot be guaranteed in cases of over-demand.

Completion and submission of the School's 16-19 Bursary Application Form will be required. The information provided in your application form will enable the school to identify individual financial need and appropriately allocate the available funds. These guidance notes should help you to complete the application form accurately.

Please note that the completed application form should be passed to the Finance Office along with the required documentary evidence by no later than **Monday 30th October 2017**. However, the school does accept new applications throughout the year, should a financial need arise.

The School will also consider further assistance for any successful applicant due to the onset of an unexpected or large expense (such as a school trip) or a change in circumstances at home leading to financial hardship.

All information provided will be kept confidential and shared only with those involved in consideration of the bursary award.

Please indicate which type of bursary you are applying for

There are two types of bursary: the Vulnerable Bursary and the Discretionary Bursary. Please tick the box on the application form that applies best to your circumstances. To be eligible for either type of bursary students must:

- Be aged 16 or over and under 19 on 31 August 2017 or
- Be aged 19 or over at 31 August 2017 and have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
- Be aged 19 or over at 31 August 2017 and continuing on a study programme they began aged 16 to 18.
- Meet the residency criteria as stated in 'ESFA 2017 to 2018 academic year funding regulations for post 16 provision'.
- Be participating in provision that is subject to inspection by a public body which assures quality, the provision must also be either funded directly by the ESFA or by ESFA via a local authority.

Vulnerable Bursary Fund (Level 1)

The highest level of support of up to £1,200 a year will be paid to those students in one or more of the following categories:

- A young person in care.
- A care leaver.
- A young person in receipt of Income Support or Universal Credit in your own right.
- A young person in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit and Disability Living or Personal Independence payments in your own right.

All other bursaries will be discretionary and will be allocated by the School dependant on the level of your household's income and matched to the financial needs identified by you on the application form. Discretionary Bursaries will be awarded as follows:

Discretionary Bursary Fund (Level 2)

The Discretionary Bursary (Level 2) will support students from households with the lowest incomes. For guidance, this would normally be students:

- entitled to free school meals, and / or
- whose families receive income related benefits, where earned family income is below £16,190 per annum.

Information on entitlement to free school meals can be found on the Northamptonshire County Council website. <http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/Pages/free-school-meals.aspx>

Discretionary Individual Hardship Payments (Level 3)

Where it can be evidenced that a student faces identifiable financial barriers to education, but is not eligible to receive a Vulnerable Bursary (Level 1) or Discretionary Bursary (Level 2), a student may apply for a Discretionary Individual Hardship Payment (Level 3) for specific educational purposes. For guidance, this would normally be students:

- Whose families receive income related benefits, or where earned family income is between £16,190 and £25, 521 per annum.

It should be noted that funds under this scheme may be limited, and will only be made available after all Level 2 Discretionary Bursaries are fully allocated.

Section 1 PERSONAL DETAILS

Please enter your personal details. This section identifies whether you satisfy the age and residency criteria and whether your chosen programme of study qualifies you to receive the bursary. To be eligible to receive the bursary students must meet the criteria (please see bottom of Page 1).

Section 2 BACKGROUND

This section helps identify whether you qualify to receive the highest level of bursary, known as the Vulnerable Bursary (Level 1).

You will need to submit documentary evidence with your application form.

If you are claiming a Vulnerable Bursary, please go straight to Sections 6 and 7 after completing this section.

Section 3 HOUSEHOLD INCOME

This section identifies the students most in need of financial support from the discretionary bursary fund by assessing the total level of household income. It is important that we have full details of any benefits and income (earned and unearned) received by the household.

Question 1. Please tell us what benefits are received by the household and submit evidence such the most recent benefit notification, or HMRC Tax Credit Notification (renewal notices will not be accepted).

Question 2. Please tell us about any earned income from employment, self-employment and work in your household. We will need to have a copy of a recent P60 and payslip or an HMRC approved notice.

Question 3. For any unearned income in your household, such a shared, bonds and investments, rental income, pensions, we will need to see a recent bank statement.

Question 4. If you are in receipt of free school meals, then please submit your notification from NCC.

Question 5. We also need to know how many dependants (in full time education under the age of 19) there are in your household. This will give us an idea of the financial demands placed on the household income.

Section 4 EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

This section helps us to identify the specific costs you face in continuing your education, so that we can assess the level of support needed. The purpose of the bursary is to help you overcome these financial barriers, so it is important that you give us as much detail as possible. We will also ask for evidence of these costs, where applicable. Please tick which costs are applicable to you and the amount. If you have a cost that is not on the list, please give full details under 'other'.

Section 5 OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Please use this section to tell us about anything else that you feel is important to do with your household's current financial situation. This will give us a better picture of the particular financial circumstances that you may be dealing with.

Section 6 STUDENT BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

Please provide us with the details of the bank account where the cheque payment will be presented. Please note that payment will usually be by cheque, but where possible, payment for goods and services will be purchased by the school on behalf of the students. Payment will be made monthly, however, individual hardship payments may be made in single one off amounts during the academic year to meet a specific arising financial need.

Section 7 DECLARATION

By signing this declaration, you are confirming that the information you have provided is true and accurate and you will notify the School of any changes of circumstances during the academic year.

Bursaries are payable subject to certain criteria being met. You are agreeing to maintain agreed levels of attendance, behaviour and effort as specified in the declaration. Bursary payments may be withheld if these conditions are not met. Regular reviews of attendance, behaviour and effort will take place to determine whether you can continue to receive bursary support.

The declaration states that the school will seek to recover any monies paid where information submitted has proved to be false, incomplete or changes in circumstances have not been notified. The matter may be referred to the Department for Education or the police and you could face prosecution as a result.

Please submit a separate form for each student application. Both the student and a parent will need to sign and date the form.

APPEALS

Once you have submitted the application form, it will be assessed and you will be informed in writing whether you are eligible to receive a bursary and the amount. You have the right to appeal against a decision that the school has made, if you believe it to be wrong and can provide evidence to support this. Appeals should be made, in writing including letters of support from people who understand your situation, within 14 days to the school's Finance Office. Final decisions for appeals will be made by a panel consisting of the Business Manager, Assistant Principal and a Staff Governor. The outcome of the appeal will then be communicated to you in writing within 14 days.