

Student Funding

at Barnsley College

The Learner Support Fund (LSF) may be able to help eligible students with essential costs related to attending College and completing their course.

Support is based on your personal circumstances, household income and the type of course you are studying. It may help with:



Travel costs



Meal allowance



Essential equipment



Essential Trips



UCAS fees



Travel costs
(towards university visits)



Childcare costs



Who can apply for funding?

To apply, you need to meet the eligibility rules for the fund. This includes checks on your residency, age, course type and household income.

- > Meet the Department for Education (DfE) and/or Adult Skills Fund (ASF) residency requirements
- > Meet the age requirements of the fund
- > Be enrolled on an approved Government funded programme
- > Evidence household income below £42,000 gross
- > Evidence the benefit eligibility for free meal entitlement

Students on waged apprenticeships **cannot** apply for the Learner Support Fund. However, apprentices may be able to apply for the Stanley Race Bursary.

Please contact the Student Services Funding team for more information.



Funds available

Subject to eligibility and income assessment

There are different types of support available depending on your age, course and circumstances. The table below explains which funds may be available and what evidence or income information may be needed.

Fund	Eligibility	Household Income
14-16 Learner Support Fund	Students enrolled to Direct Entry only*	Under £22,000 gross Between £22,001- £42,000 Travel Only
Free Meal Entitlement	• Students aged 16-18 on 31 August • Students who turn 19 during the academic year • Students aged 19-24 with an EHCP 19+ continuers (students who are continuing the same course they began at 18)	Proof of the following benefits: Universal Credit Support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
16-18 Learner Support Fund	Students aged 16-18 on 31 August	Gross annual income of less than £42,000 (all adults in the household)
Vulnerable Bursary	Students aged 16-18 as of 31 August and in a priority, status as defined by the DfE guidance: • Looked After (by the local authority) • Care leavers Students aged 16-18 as of 31 August and in a priority status as defined by DfE guidance: • In care or a care leaver • Receiving Income Support or Universal Credit in their own right • Receiving both DLA/PIP and ESA or Universal Credit in their own right • An unaccompanied asylum-seeking child in the care of the Local Authority	Evidence through provision of a letter or email from the local authority Evidence of individual benefit for Income Support/ Universal Credit with proof of tenancy agreement or child benefit Proof of the students DLA or PIP and ESA/UC
19+ Learner Support Fund	Students aged 19 or above as of 31 August and not in receipt of an Advanced Learner Loan.	Gross annual income of less than £42,000 (all adults in the household)
Advanced Learner Loan Bursary (ALLB)	Households with a gross annual income of less than £42,000 (this includes all the adults in the household)	Gross annual income of less than £42,000 (all adults in the household)
20+ Childcare	Students aged 20 or above as of 31 August and not in receipt of Advanced Learner Loan. Students must have applied for 19+ LSF first.	Gross annual income of less than £42,000 (all adults in the household) Childcare Supplementary form and proof of child/s birth certificate/s
14-19 Care 2 Learn	Students aged 14-19 as of 31 August	Not income assessed Childcare supplementary form and child/s birth certificate

What the LSF does not pay for

The fund is for essential costs linked to your course. It cannot usually be used for general living costs or support that is already provided in another way.

- > General living costs, such as Wi-Fi, rent or bills
- > Learning support and pastoral services/counselling/mentoring/extra tutoring
- > Activities that are not essential to your course or study programme
- > Servicing devices
- > Apprentices
- > Distance or online learning, unless you need to travel to College for exams
- > Block subsidy of transport, canteen services or materials



How to apply

You need to apply online. To help avoid delays, please make sure you include all the evidence requested when you apply.

All students must apply through the Pay My Student portal and provide evidence of household income.

If evidence is missing, your application and any award may be delayed.



To access the Pay My Student portal, scan the QR code or visit barnsley.paymystudent.com/portal

Income Evidence

To assess your application, we need evidence of household income.

Examples of accepted evidence include:

Current Universal Credit Notice (last three months Universal Credit statements)

Letter from Benefit Agency confirming receipt of benefit – dated from April 2026 showing amount being received

Most recent wage slips (minimum of 2 monthly/3 fortnightly/4 weekly payslips)

2025/26 End of Year Tax Return for 2025/26 if self-employed

Asylum Seekers can provide an ARC card or all pages of the Bail 201 form



Terms and Conditions

Important!



Please read this section carefully so you understand when support starts, how payments work and what may affect your award.

You will only receive financial support once your application has been approved.

If you start late, apply late or finish your course early, your support may be adjusted. Support will usually start from the first day of the half term in which we receive your completed application and all required evidence.

Financial support ends when your course ends or if you withdraw from your course. If you need support again for the following year, you will need to reapply.

Attendance

If you receive payments, these may depend on your attendance and will follow the Learner Support Fund policy.

- > **Below 90%** – payments will be reduced to your attendance percentage
- > **Below 50%** – payments will be put on hold

Leaving Your Course

If you leave your course, you must inform Student Services by emailing:

✉ studentfunding@barnsley.ac.uk

You may need to pay back any money received after you leave.

Travel

You must apply for any travel discounts you can get, including the College free bus if available.

Equipment

Any equipment provided by the College may need to be returned when you finish your course.

Payments

Support is not always paid directly into your bank account. We will assess your individual needs, and you may receive support in another way.

Benefits (Age 19+)

If you are aged 19 or over, it is your responsibility to tell the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) about any Learner Support Fund payments you receive, as this may affect your state benefits.

Free College Meals

- > Standard allowance for students eligible for free meal entitlement only: **£2.66** per day
- > Students eligible the Learner Support Fund will receive a top up to **£4.25** per day

What happens after an application is submitted?

Once you submit your application, the Student Funding team will check your details and evidence before confirming the outcome.

Please allow up to 10 working days for your application form to be assessed. We advise you to apply as soon as you know you will be enrolling to the College.

Your evidence must show your name and address. We will check your eligibility, including your residency, course and household income. Please submit a complete application with all income evidence to help avoid delays.

If your household is experiencing financial hardship that may affect your studies, please speak to your department tutorial staff member first. They can contact us to find out what short-term support may be available.

If you are accepted

You will receive an email to your student and personal email addresses with details of the support you will receive.

If your application is declined

You will receive an email to your student and personal email addresses explaining why your application was declined. If evidence is missing, you will be asked to upload the missing evidence.

Making an appeal

Please contact

✉ studentfunding@barnsley.ac.uk should you wish to make an appeal about the outcome of your application.

Please be aware that Barnsley College may have to make changes to funding awards in line with the DfE guidance during the 2026/2027 academic year.

Being eligible does not automatically mean you will receive financial support. You must also show that you have a financial need.

Correct Information

Please make sure the information you give is correct. Giving false or incorrect information may mean future payments are stopped or recovered if they have been paid incorrectly.





Financial Support

at Barnsley College

For information about financial
support schemes contact
Student Services funding Team:

 www.barnsley.ac.uk/financial-support

 studentfunding@barnsley.ac.uk

 01226 216 267



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