

16-19 Bursary Applicant Information 2026 - 2027

What is the 16-19 Bursary?

The 16 – 19 Bursary Fund is a government funded scheme designed to help support those young people who face the greatest financial barriers to continuing in education or training post-16.

Individual schools and colleges are able to decide their own assessment and award criteria within broad guidelines set out by the government. The main restriction is that the funds must be used to assist with costs directly associated with education within Sixth Form and cannot be used to support a student's general living costs.

We receive a fixed sum of money each year to allocate to students which means that the amount of financial support an individual student receives may vary from year to year depending on the number of qualifying applications that are received.

Who is eligible to apply?

Bursaries fall into two categories:

1. **Vulnerable Bursary** – available to students who fall into a category defined as vulnerable. These are usually students in care, care leavers or those receiving income support.
2. **Discretionary Bursaries** – available to students who fall within certain household income thresholds. Awards are made on a sliding scale depending on income.

Type of Bursary	Criteria
Vulnerable Bursary	Students who are: • In Care • A care leaver • Receiving Income Support or Universal Credit because they are financial independent • Receiving Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independent Payments and receiving Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit Evidence is required and should be attached to the application.
Discretionary Bursary	Students who live in a household where the total gross annual taxable income is £35,000 or less. Evidence of total household income will be required and should be attached to the application, such as: • Universal Credit • Income based Jobseekers' Allowance • Income related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) • Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 • The guarantee element of the State Pension Credit • Child Tax credit • 3 months most recent payslips

How do I apply?

All applications must be made using the 2026-27 application form which is available online or from the Sixth Form Office. All applications must be supported by the relevant evidence.

Paper copies of the application form are also available from the Sixth Form office in the AR Building.

When complete the forms and evidence can be emailed to Mrs Offord sofford@ivc.tela.org.uk or handed in to the Sixth Form Office.

When do I apply?

Year 12: Students can apply once officially enrolled after GCSE results are released in August.

Year 13: Students can apply in the July of Year 12 once their place has been confirmed for September.

The deadline for applications to be received is **Friday 25th September 2026**.

After this date, students can still apply if they are able to demonstrate a significant change in financial circumstances or in rare circumstances where unknown significant costs arise.

What can the Bursary help pay for?

The 16-19 bursary is designed to help students meet the costs associated with their post-16 study, including:

- Transport between their home and sixth form.
- Course specific equipment.
- The cost of trips and visits which are deemed essential to their course.
- Printing and essential books.

Students who are applying for the discretionary bursary and qualify for Free School meals, should consider applying to the County Council for a subsidised bus pass for help with transport costs – [Post-16 Transport Applications Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

This source of support must be considered for eligible students before a Bursary Award for transport can be made.

How much will I receive?

The amount paid to students qualifying for the Discretionary Bursary can vary from year to year depending on the amount of funding the college receives and the number of applicants. After the application deadline has passed, an assessment of demand will be made and the funds allocated as fairly as possible using a three category approach:

- Category 1: Students in receipt of Free School Meals
- Category 2: Students with a household income under £27,500
- Category 3: Students with a household income between £27,500 and £35,000

What happens next?

Once the application deadline has passed and we have assessed the applications, we will be in touch to confirm if students have qualified for financial support and the amount we are able to award.

Depending on the financial needs identified for the student, it is likely that the total award will not all be assigned at the start of the year. Some of the award will be held for costs later in the year, for such things as trip payments or books for course changes.

Students and parents are encouraged to contact the college whenever a cost arises relevant to accessing sixth form so we can assess if a student's bursary award can specifically support with that expense.

Other sources of financial support

Free School Meals: Information on eligibility and how to apply is [here](#).

Note: if you already have Free School Meals and did not attend Impington Village College, you will need to inform the [Educational Welfare Benefits Team](#) where you are going to Sixth Form so they can reassign your award.

Post-16 Subsidised Transport: information on eligibility and application – [Post-16 Transport Applications Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Holiday Voucher Scheme: Cambridgeshire County Council has just announced the closure of this scheme. After July 2026 no more vouchers will be issued.

Who can I contact for help?

Bursary applications and supporting information are kept confidential and as such are administered by our Director of Pastoral Care, Mrs Suzy Offord.

Mrs Offord can be contacted to help with any questions or issues.

Email: sofford@ivc.tela.org.uk

Tel: 01223 200402