

LEARNER SUPPORT FUND

FINANCE TO FLOURISH

2021 / 2022



Halesowen
College

TYPES OF SUPPORT

- 16-19 Discretionary Bursary
- 16-19 Vulnerable Bursary
- Further Education Free Meals
- 19+ Discretionary Learner Support
- 19+ Advanced Learning Loans Bursary Fund

LEARNER SUPPORT FUND (LSF)

If you have a household income of £37,398 or below or someone in the household is in receipt of certain benefits, you could receive financial help to support you with college costs such as meals, uniform, equipment, and childcare. We will need to see evidence of the household income you receive.

All funds are distributed on a needs basis and are subject to affordability. Funds are finite and are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Funding is available to students studying a course which is funded by the ESFA. You cannot receive this support if you are aged under 16, studying a HE course, Apprenticeship or any other course not funded by the ESFA.

The amount of funding available to you is dependent on your total household income; the thresholds for support are as follows:

BAND 1	Up to £25,245.99
BAND 2	£25,246 - £30,852.99
BAND 3	£30,853 - £37,398

Students in Band 1 may get up to 100% of any approved award; Band 2 – 60% and Band 3 – 30%.

The benefits you receive and the number of dependants in the household may also be taken into account when your application is assessed.

WHAT CAN I CLAIM SUPPORT FOR?

• Meals

Your college card can be activated with meal credits to spend in Elliott's, Starbucks and Bistro@B63.

• Equipment and Uniform

Essential equipment and uniform can be funded if it is a requirement for the course.

• Trips & Enrichment

Trips and enrichment can be funded if offered as part of the course.

• Work Placement

Travel to work placement can be funded if required.

• Travel

In extenuating circumstances, transport costs can be funded. This is only available to you if you are not able to catch a college coach. Travel applications are decided on an individual basis.

• Childcare

If you are aged 20 and over, you can apply for support towards Childcare whilst you are attending college. To check for availability at Nursery@B63, please contact 0121 602 7677 or email nursery@halesowen.ac.uk.

For students under 20 years of age in need of support towards Childcare, Care to Learn can help in need of Childcare support. For more information, visit www.gov.uk/care-to-learn.



VULNERABLE BURSARY

If you are 16-18 years old on 31/08/2021 and one of the following applies to you, you may be able to access a bursary paid weekly, of up to £1,200 per year.

- In Care
- Care Leaver
- Receiving Income Support or Universal Credit as the student is living independently or supporting a dependant.
- Receiving both PIP/DLA and ESA/UC in the student's own right

PAYMENTS

Direct payments are only made when a student meets certain eligibility criteria. Any payments made to you will be paid by BACS. **Bank details must be in the student's name.**

We can also make payments in kind. Part time students will be funded on a pro rata basis.

ALL AWARDS MADE ARE SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOUR.

**To apply for the Learner Support Fund,
visit the PayMyStudent portal:
<https://halesowen.paymystudent.com/portal/>**

1. Register using your **Student ID number**. If you are unsure of what this is, please contact us using the details on the back of this leaflet.

2. **Confirm** your account by clicking the activation link sent to your email.

3. **Login** using the details you registered with.

Please note, if we do not see the correct evidence, your application will be returned, and we will email explaining what we need to see. We will not assess your application until we have the correct evidence.

4. Complete the application form including **uploading evidence** of your **household income**.

5. **Agree** to the terms and conditions and **submit your application**. You will receive an email to confirm we have received it.

Please visit <https://www.halesowen.ac.uk/learners/financial-support/> for more information regarding LSF including a full video demonstration of the application process.

"It helps a lot of families who need the extra money to provide for children's equipment for college and to make sure that they are eating at home and college."

"It's easy to understand and the staff have helped me a lot if I had any problems."

"The application process was clear and easy to see what it wanted us to submit."

"It really supported me for throughout the entire school year. With this support, it really lifted a weight off my shoulders and I actually have some extra money to spend every month with my weekly allowance."

"It was easy to access, and the staff are extremely supportive, they helped when I felt a bit confused and overall, it was just really easy to apply for."

"Simple and straightforward application."

"The college responded quickly to my emails and application and efficiently resolved any issues with the application."

CONTACT US

Please contact us if you have any queries regarding LSF using the following details:

- **Student Hub,**
Whittingham Road
- **Student Hub,**
Shenstone House
- **Live Chat**
www.halesowen.ac.uk
- **Phone**
0121 602 7888
- **Email**
studentservices@halesowen.ac.uk

