

HELLO FUTURE



**16-18 Student
Financial Support
Booklet**

**HERE TO HELP YOU
ON YOUR JOURNEY**

**EVERY STEP
OF THE WAY**

2026-2027



BMet

16-18 Students

Financial Support – removing the barriers to learning

We are here to help with the costs of study and have a wide-range of financial support packages to remove barriers to learning. The government gives the college a fund to help those in financial need with the costs of study.

An overview of the funds and support types are shown below. Specific criteria apply to some funds and support types within the fund. Eligibility for this support is dependent upon your individual circumstances, your individual or

household income and the course you are enrolled onto.

All awards are subject to maintaining a satisfactory attendance level of 89% or above. Awards may be suspended or cancelled where attendance is below this rate. Funding is limited and once all funds are allocated, these will be closed to new applicants and awards. Awards are made to priority groups as identified in our Bursary Policy.

All awards are issued in line with the Bursary Support Policy, a copy of which can be found on the Student Portal.

Bursary Funds

	16-18 Bursary
Criteria	Aged 16,17 or 18 on 31st August 2026 Or aged 19-24 with an EHCP on 31st August 2026
Household Income	£45,000 per year or less
Residency Criteria	You must have the right to live in the UK and have lived within the UK for the last 3 years. If you are an asylum seeker or refugee you will need to provide evidence with your application of your right to live in the UK.
Study Duration Criteria	You must be studying for 2 or more days per week to be eligible.
Travel (Public Transport)	Yes
Free College Meals*	Yes
Equipment inc Printing Credits	Yes
Childcare Costs	Yes
Vulnerable Bursary**	Yes

*application must be made and assessed at the point of enrolment

**additional eligibility criteria apply

Travel Support (Public Transport)

Our travel support is available to help with the costs of travel to and from college. Support is provided in the form of travel passes for public transport only. Your

application will automatically be assessed and if you qualify you will be advised in your award confirmation email.



We are proud to work with National Express West Midlands to bring you travel support to your fingertips. Our collaboration enables you to receive

your travel pass directly to your phone through the National Express MTickets App. If you have a mobile phone (Apple or Android) and are eligible for a West Midlands Travel pass, this is how you will receive your travel support. Download from the App Store or Google Play.



We are proud to work with National Express to bring travel support to your fingertips.





If your parents / guardians are in receipt of certain benefits, we can support with the cost of meals - both at college and if you are out on placement or work experience.

If you are awarded travel support, which incorporates other services such as multi

operator bus services or trains, support will be issued through a SWIFT card. Please see Student Services for further details. In exceptional circumstances where travel support cannot be provided through National Express West Midlands, a monetary award may be paid by to your bank account.

Free College Meals

If your parents / guardians are in receipt of certain benefits, we can support you with the cost of meals both at college and if you are out on placement or work experience. This offer will provide you with an allowance of £5.00 per day. You can redeem this value in the college refectory for a meal which includes a drink. Your meal award value will depend on your individual circumstances. Your application will automatically be assessed and you will be advised in your award confirmation email of your meal allowance rate.

If you are at a college site which does not have an onsite catering facility or you are on placement/work experience, you may be issued with a monetary award assessed on a needs basis.

Eligibility Criteria

Free meals are targeted at disadvantaged students. Free meals in further education defines disadvantaged as students being in receipt of, or having parents / guardians who are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- 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 guarantee element of State Pension Credit

- Child Tax Credit (provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC))
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after someone stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit
- The college supports learners who are not in receipt of the listed benefits through our discretionary fund.

Equipment Support

We can help with the costs of study related to your course such as:

- Educational trips & visits
- Kit and equipment
- Printing credits
- UCAS fees
- Free stationery packs and Art supplies to get your started

Please do not commit to any trips or buy any equipment you cannot self-fund without seeking prior confirmation of support being available from Student Services.

Please note we are unable to provide support for the purchase of hardware equipment for example, laptop, camera, sewing machine etc.

Equipment Support	16 -19 Bursary
Level of support available for equipment, trips and visits.	Income below £45,000 • Up to 50% contribution Vulnerable Bursary students • 100% contribution

If you are approved for support, you will need to provide receipts for items purchased. Refunds at the approved rate will be made directly to your bank account.



Childcare Costs

BMet offers financial support to help with the cost of childcare while you study. This support was previously provided through the national Care to Learn scheme but is now administered directly by the college. This fund is designed to remove barriers to learning by helping with the cost of registered childcare and related travel expenses.

Eligibility Criteria

- To be eligible for this support, you must:
- Be the main carer of your child
- Be enrolled on an eligible study programme
- Use an Ofsted-registered childcare provider

What we Can Help With :

- Childcare costs up to £70 per day, including deposits and registration fees
- Taster sessions (up to 5 days) and holiday retainers

- Travel costs for taking your child to and from childcare
- As with all financial support, there are some important rules:
- You must be enrolled and attending your course before support can be issued
- Your childcare provider must confirm your child's attendance
- Funding is reviewed throughout the year and may be adjusted to meet the needs of the most financially disadvantaged students
- You must maintain an attendance level of at least 89% to remain eligible
- For more information on how the college can support you using Care to Learn funding, visit www.gov.uk/care-to-learn.

Vulnerable Bursary

The government provides an additional fund to support those students who are defined as being in a vulnerable group. Students within this category may be

able to receive an additional support up to the value of £1200 per year to support with the costs of study above and beyond the main college bursary offer.

The fund is administered by the college on behalf of the Student Bursary Support Service.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for this fund, you must be within one of the defined vulnerable groups and able to provide evidence of this when you apply for support.

The defined vulnerable groups:

- In care or have recently left care
- Receiving Income Support, or Universal Credit because you are financially supporting yourself or financially supporting yourself and someone who is dependent on you and living with you, such as a child or partner.
- Receiving Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments in your own right, as well as Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit in your own right

The Rules

With any kind of funding, there are some rules:

- Funding is made available for one academic year. If you are on a two-year course or come back to study at the next level or subject, you will need to make a new application.
- Funding awarded will be for your current course only and if you enrol onto a new course, you will need to make a new application. Funds cannot be guaranteed for new applications.
- You must be enrolled and attending your course before support is issued
- Funding is continually assessed and offers may be changed within the year to best meet the needs of the most financially disadvantaged students

- You must maintain an acceptable level of attendance at or above 89% to continue to be eligible for support
- Receiving any form of financial support is dependent on your meeting the attendance, punctuality and behaviour expected of you. If you are having any difficulties, you must speak to your tutor as soon as possible.
- Receiving financial support may affect certain benefits. It is your responsibility to notify the relevant authority of support you are receiving, which may affect your entitlement.

Our part of the deal

Once we have received your application, we will assess this and let you know the outcome within a maximum of 10 working days. Applications for Childcare, Travel, Free College Meals and Vulnerable Bursary, will be given priority assessment. We will also inform you within this time frame, if you do not qualify for financial support.

We have a duty to ensure that funds are awarded fairly and to the students in most need. If you are not happy with the outcome of your award, the first step is to see the Student Services team. They will be able to check your award and discuss the outcome with you and explain how your application has been assessed. If you are still unhappy with the outcome of your award, you can appeal in writing within 10 working days of your award being declined to the Student Services Finance team, by email LearnerSupport@bmet.ac.uk.

Fraudulent Claims

We ask for detailed information and may invite applicants to interview, so that we can distribute our funds fairly. If a claim is considered to be fraudulent, we will ask for any support awarded to be repaid in full. This may include court action and referral to the police.

If something is worrying you it is never too early or too late to ask for **SUPPORT. Wellbeing Support Services**

Physical Wellbeing

- Victim Support available 24 hours 0808 1689 111 or live chat www.victimsupport.org.uk
- Birmingham Crisis Centre support for victims of Domestic Abuse 24 hr helpline **0121 507 0707**
- SAYA multilingual 24-hour helpline for Domestic Violence **0800 389 6990** (Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu)
- Men's Domestic Violence Helpline **1800 000 599**
- Aquarius support with alcohol, drugs and gambling **0121 622 8181**
- Talk to Frank for facts, support and advice on drugs and alcohol **0300 123 6600** www.talktofrank.com
- Umbrella support for sexual health including home testing kits **0121 237 5700**

Emotional and Psychological Wellbeing

- Togetherall.com free to all BMet students and staff
- Kooth.com online mental wellbeing community, free, safe and anonymous support
- Forward Thinking Birmingham and Pause Drop in mental health support for people up to 25yrs **0300 300 0099** www.forwardthinkingbirmingham.nhs.uk
- Samaritans there's always someone there to listen **116 123**
- Shout 24/7 if you are struggling to cope and need mental health support free text service text SHOUT to **85258**
- Forced Marriage Unit for help and advice **020 7008 5000** from overseas **+44 (0)20 7008 5000** out of hours **020 7008 5000**
- West Midlands Police forced marriage support and information www.west-midlands.police.uk/your-options/forced-marriage
- Rape & Sexual Violence Project (RSVP) **0121 643 4136**
- Strut Safe to support anyone who feels unsafe when walking in public **0333 335 0026** Friday and Saturday 19:00 – 03:00 Sunday 19:00 – 01:00 www.strutsafe.org
- The Waiting Room a signposting website to a variety of community support services www.the-waitingroom.org

Social Wellbeing

- Birmingham LGBT support to improve wellbeing and reduce isolation **0121 643 0821** www.blgbt.org
- Mermaids support for gender diverse young people and their families helpline **0808 801 0400** text MERMAIDS to **85258** for free 24/7 crisis support www.mermaidsuk.org.uk
- Lesbian and Gay Switchboard UK **0300 330 0630** www.switchboard.lgbt
- Food Cycle support for people who are hungry and lonely www.foodcycle.org.uk

Spiritual

- Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health to help you find or reconnect with things in your life www.bsmhft.nhs.uk/service-user-and-carer/service-user-information/spiritual-care/
- College Chaplains speak to your pastoral and welfare team for more information

Intellectual

- Birmingham Disability Resource Centre **03030 402 040** www.disability.co.uk
- Disability Rights UK Promoting meaningful independent living for disabled people Disabled Students Helpline: **0330 995 0400** www.disabilityrightsuk.org
- Scope Information services on all aspects of disability **0808 800 3333** www.scope.org.uk
- Dyslexia Association Birmingham **0121 643 3737** www.da-bham.org

Economic

- Trussell Trust Foodbank support www.trusselltrust.org
- YMCA Birmingham homelessness support **0121 477 4644**
- YMCA Sutton Coldfield homelessness support **0121 354 5614**
- St Basils homelessness support **0300 303 0099** text NEED ST BASILS to **62277**
- Turn2us financial advice and benefits calculator www.turn2us.org.uk
- GamCare advice and, support for anyone harmed by gambling **0808 8020 133** or live chat on www.gamcare.org.uk
- National Illegal Money Lending Team for help and support on loan sharks **0300 555 2222** or text LOAN SHARK to **60003**

Don't forget we have lots of wellbeing help and support in college, speak to your tutor or Pastoral and Welfare Team to find out more.



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