



19+

**Student Financial
Support Booklet**

Every step of the way

Here
to help you on your
journey



**Matthew Boulton
College**
Inspiring futures, realising dreams.

19+ 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.

Bursary Funds

	19+ Bursary	Advanced Learner Loans Bursary	Higher Education
Criteria	Aged 19+ on 31st August 2019	Aged 19+ on 31st August 2019 and have a fully approved Advanced Learner Loan in place	We have a limited Higher Education Bursary scheme details of which are available on request at Student Services.
Household Income	£21,000 per year or less	£25,000 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.		
Support Types			
Travel (Public Transport)	Yes	Yes	
Equipment inc Printing Credits	Yes	Yes	
Childcare Costs	Yes	Yes	
Course Fees*	Yes	N/A	

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

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 MyMet and our website.

Travel Support (Public Transport)

Our travel support is available if you live more than 1.5 miles from college. Support is provided in the form of travel passes for public transport only.



We are proud to work with National Express West Midlands to bring your 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.

We're here to help

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.

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
- Enrichment trips & visits* subject to fund availability

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.

Bursary Fund	19+ Bursary	Advanced Learner Loans Bursary
Level of support available	Up to 50% contribution	Up to 50% 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 – Students aged 20+

We can help with the costs of childcare whilst you study - up to a maximum of £50 per day. Childcare must be provided by an Ofsted registered provider. Childcare will only be provided where there is not a non-working partner at home. Funding is available for one child and will be paid for the days you are timetabled to be at college, up to a maximum of 4 days per week. Please note you may be expected to make some contribution to your own childcare costs.

Where government funding is available, you will be expected to fully use this funding prior to requesting support from the college.

<https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-year-olds>

All 3 to 4 year olds in England can get 570 free hours per year. It's usually taken as 15 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year. Some 3 to 4 year olds in England can get up to 1,140 hours per year, 30 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year.

All payments for childcare will be made directly to your provider, by monthly invoice in arrears.

Please do not commit to any childcare you cannot self-fund without seeking prior confirmation of support (being available from Student Services).

Course Fees – 19+ Students

In exceptional cases, we may be able to help with the costs of course fees. All applications for support must be made at the point of enrolment and will be assessed as part of the enrolment

process. If support is awarded, the cost of your fees will be paid directly to the college from the Bursary Fund.

Eligibility Criteria

You must be studying on a course funded by the Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) or the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA). Students who are undertaking a course that does not attract any funding from the above authorities cannot apply for course fee support.

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.

We can help with the costs of childcare whilst you study up to a maximum of £50 per day. Childcare must be provided by an Ofsted registered provider. Childcare will only be provided where there is not a non-working partner at home.



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 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 StudentFinance@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.

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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 StudentFinance@bmet.ac.uk



Need to talk?

Support Services

Counselling

- **Mind 0121 608 8001**
(Helpline)
- **Samaritans 0121 666 6644**
- **Forward Thinking Birmingham 0300 300 0099**
- **Papyrus 0800 068 4141**
(Suicide)
- **Rethink 0121 522 7007**
(Mental Health Support)
- **SANE 0300 304 7000**
(Mental Health Support – Out of hours)
- **Childline 0870 336 2915**
- **Kooth www.kooth.com**
(Free online confidential counselling)
- **SAYA 0800 389 6990**
Multi-lingual 24 hour helpline
(Bengali, Gujarati, Hindu, Punjabi)

Domestic Abuse

- **Women's Aid 0808 800 0028**
(Birmingham & Solihull)
- **Birmingham Crisis Centre 0121 507 0707**
(Helpline 24 hours)
- **Rape & Sexual Violence Project (RSVP) 0121 643 4136**
(Helpline)
- **Trident Reach 0800 111 4223**
(Domestic Abuse)
- **Salvation Army 0121 236 6554**
(Domestic Abuse
Refuge Accommodation)
- **Victim Support 0845 30 30 900**
(24 hour helpline)

Forced Marriage

- **Karma Nirvana 0800 5999 247**
(Honour based & forced marriage)
- **Life Project 0121 554 3920**
(Victims of forced marriage)

Homelessness

- **St Basils Birmingham Youth Line under 18's 0121 675 4806 over 18's 0121 303 2296**
(Homelessness support)
- **YMCA Birmingham 0121 477 4644**
- **YMCA Sutton 0121 354 5614**
- **Birmingham City Council 0121 303 7410**

Sexual Health

- **Umbrella 0121 237 5700**
- **Brook 0121 643 5341**
(Sexual health for under 25 year olds)

Drug and Alcohol Advice

- **Talk to Frank 0300 123 6600**
www.talktofrank.com
- **Aquarius 0121 622 8181**
- **Addaction 020 7251 5860**



**Matthew Boulton
College**
part of BMet