



16-18

Student Financial
Support Booklet

Every step of the way

Here
to help you on your
journey



**James Watt
College**

Inspiring futures, realising dreams.

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.

Bursary Funds

	16-19 Bursary
Criteria	Aged 16,17 or 18 on 31st August 19 Or aged 19-24 with an EHCP on 31st August 2020
Household Income	£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.
Travel (Public Transport)	Yes
Free College Meals*	Yes
Equipment inc Printing Credits	Yes
Childcare Costs**	Yes
Vulnerable Bursary***	Yes

*additional eligibility criteria to apply also available to 19-24 year old students with an EHCP

** through Care to Learn for students aged under 20 years old at the start of the course

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. There are some distance to travel exemptions

available for disadvantaged learners. Your application will automatically be assessed and if you qualify you will be advised in your award confirmation email.

national express West Midlands



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 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 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 between £2.50 - £3.50 per day. You can redeem this value in the college refectory for a meal which includes a drink. This offer is not available in our coffee shops. 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 will be issued with a monetary award for the same value to spend off site.

Eligibility Criteria (these are in addition to the main 16-19 Bursary Fund criteria)

Free meals are targeted at disadvantaged students. Free meals in further education defines disadvantaged as students being in receipt of, or having parents 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 with net earnings not exceeding the equivalent of £7,400 pa

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	16-19 Bursary
Level of support available	Income below £21,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to 50% contribution Income between £21,001 - £25,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to 25% contribution Vulnerable Bursary students <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 for students aged under 20

The government fund childcare for parents who want to continue their education or training and need help with the costs of childcare. You can get up to £160 per child per week.

The government provides an additional fund to support those students who are defined as being in a vulnerable group. Students within this category can receive an additional award up to £1200 per year - paid in weekly amounts to support with the costs of study above and beyond the main college bursary fund.

Childcare Costs through Care to Learn

The government fund childcare for parents who want to continue their education or training and need help with the costs of childcare. You can get up to £160 per child per week.

Care to Learn can help with the cost of:

- your childcare, including deposit and registration fees, Ofsted registered provider
- a childcare taster session for up to 5 days
- keeping your childcare place over the summer holidays
- taking your child to their childcare provider

Childcare payments go directly to your childcare provider. Before they can be paid:

- Your childcare provider needs to confirm your child's attendance
- Your school or college needs to confirm that you're attending your course

Travel payments come directly to the college and we will arrange your travel support or make payment directly to you.

Payments stop when:

- You stop attending your course as confirmed by the college
- You reach the end of your course
- Your child stops attending childcare

Visit <https://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn> to find out more.

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 can receive an additional award up to £1200 per year - paid in weekly amounts to support with the costs of study above and beyond the main college bursary fund. The fund is administered by the college on behalf of the Student Bursary Support Service. All payments are made directly to your bank account from the college weekly.

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 effect certain benefits. It is your responsibility to notify the relevant authority of support you are receiving, which may effect 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 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.

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



**James Watt
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