



# 16-18

**Student Financial  
Support Booklet**

# Every step of the way

**Here**  
to help you on your  
**journey**

## 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

	16-18 Bursary
Criteria	Aged 16,17 or 18 on 31st August 2024 Or aged 19-24 with an EHCP on 31st August 2024
Household Income	£35,000 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

\*\*\*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.

**national express** West Midlands



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.

We're here to help





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 £4 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 will be issued with a voucher equivalent for a local food vendor.

#### 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 with net earnings not exceeding the equivalent of £7,400 after tax not including any benefits paid.
- 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
- General Stationary Supplies available at Student Services
- Kit and equipment
- Printing credits
- UCAS fees

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 -18 Bursary
Level of support available for equipment, trips and visits.	Aged 16,17 or 18 on 31st August 2024 Or aged 19-24 with an EHCP on 31st August 2024 Income below £35,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Up to 50% contribution</li></ul> Vulnerable Bursary students <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 100% contribution</li></ul>

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 £180 per child per week.

#### 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 £180 per child per week.

Care to Learn can help with the cost of:

- your childcare, including deposit and registration fees, with an 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. Eligible vulnerable students have access to 'Wellbeing and academic packs with replacement items available from Student Services. The contents of these packs are to provide students with additional resources to maintain their health and wellbeing. For further information on the contents, please contact us at [student.finance@bmet.ac.uk](mailto:student.finance@bmet.ac.uk)

#### 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. An additional short application form is required to assess eligibility to support. Please contact [student.finance@bmet.ac.uk](mailto:student.finance@bmet.ac.uk) for more details.

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 87% 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](mailto: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.



# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.strutsafe.org)
- ☉ **The Waiting Room** a signposting website to a variety of community support services [www.the-waitingroom.org](http://www.the-waitingroom.org)

### Social Wellbeing

- ☉ **Birmingham LGBT** support to improve wellbeing and reduce isolation **0121 643 0821** [www.blgbt.org](http://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](http://www.mermaidsuk.org.uk)
- ☉ **Lesbian and Gay Switchboard UK** **0300 330 0630** [www.switchboard.lgbt](http://www.switchboard.lgbt)
- ☉ **Food Cycle** support for people who are hungry and lonely [www.foodcycle.org.uk](http://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/](http://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](http://www.disability.co.uk)
- ☉ **Disability Rights UK** Promoting meaningful independent living for disabled people Disabled Students Helpline: **0330 995 0400** [www.disabilityrightsuk.org](http://www.disabilityrightsuk.org)
- ☉ **Scope** Information services on all aspects of disability **0808 800 3333** [www.scope.org.uk](http://www.scope.org.uk)
- ☉ **Dyslexia** Association Birmingham **0121 643 3737** [www.da-bham.org](http://www.da-bham.org)

### Economic

- ☉ **Trussell Trust** Foodbank support [www.trusselltrust.org](http://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](http://www.turn2us.org.uk)
- ☉ **GamCare** advice and, support for anyone harmed by gambling **0808 8020 133** or live chat on [www.gamcare.org.uk](http://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.