



19+

**Student Financial
Support Booklet**

Every step of the way

Here
to help you on your
journey

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. All awards are subject to maintaining a satisfactory attendance level of 87% 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 Learner Landing Page and our website.

Bursary Funds

	19+ Bursary	Advanced Learner Loans Bursary	Higher Education
Criteria	Aged 19+ on 31st August 2024	Aged 19+ on 31st August 2024 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	£30,000 per year or less	£30,000 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

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.

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 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.

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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
- General Stationery 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.

Bursary Fund	19+ Bursary	Advanced Learner Loans Bursary
Level of support available for equipment, trips and visits.	Up to 50% contribution	Up to 50% contribution

Following a review of your purchases for course needs, 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 £70 per day. Childcare must be provided by an Ofsted registered provider. Funding is available for the days you are timetabled to be at college, including planned placements. 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>

From September 2024, 15 hours childcare support will be extended to eligible working parents with a child from 9-months-old. 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.

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 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.

* exemptions apply.



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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



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.