

Applying for a Vulnerable Group Bursary Discretionary Bursary, Free Meals 2019-20

No.2a

At Wilberforce College we want to help students to be able to study even if they have financial difficulties. We can help you in a number of different ways depending on your circumstances. If you have a low income, have been in care or have a disability, check below to see what help is available.

What help can I get?
<p>A Vulnerable Group Bursary of £35.30 a payment (total £1200) (over 34 weekly payment periods) If you are in care OR leaving care OR in receipt of 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 OR you are disabled (in receipt of Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance).</p> <p>OR</p> <p>A Discretionary Bursary. Depending on your circumstances, help will be given for travel (pass or weekly payment), meals (if not eligible for free meals), trips, some course costs, University applications and help with work placements. In most cases, regular monetary payments will not be made.</p> <p>Free Meals. This is in addition to the Bursaries listed above. Students under 19 being in receipt of, or parents who are in receipt of, one of the following: Income Support, Child Tax Credit (provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, Income-based Jobseekers Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit, Universal Credit, Universal Credit with net earnings not exceeding the equivalent of £7,400.</p> <p>An example of a Universal Credit Award Notice is printed on the back</p>
Who can apply?
All students can apply. A new application is needed every year. Students 19 or over are given help but from a separate fund.
How do I apply?
Complete the application form in your enrolment pack and bring it with you when you enrol.
Is there a deadline date?
There is no deadline, but if you apply at enrolment you ensure that you do not miss any bus passes, meals or payments.
How will I be paid or receive help?
Meals will be allocated using a swipe card that can be used once a day. College riders will be issued weekly. Vulnerable Group Bursary payments will be paid weekly into student bank accounts. Students travelling on buses that require payment will receive a payment every week into their bank account. Bank accounts must be in the name of the student.
When will I be paid the Vulnerable Group Bursary or a bus payment?
Vulnerable Group Bursary students will receive a first payment during the week commencing 9 th September 2019. Payments will be paid weekly on a Thursday, excluding holidays. You will receive a weekly email. If you are still attending college after 34 weeks (22 nd June 2020), a reduced payment of £20 will be made each week. Students travelling on buses that require payment will receive a first payment during the week commencing 9 th September 2019. Payments will be paid weekly on a Thursday, excluding holidays. You will receive a weekly email.
Once I have applied, is the Vulnerable Group Bursary or Discretionary Bursary automatic?
No. All Vulnerable Group Bursary or Discretionary Bursary payments, bus passes and meals are subject to your attendance, behaviour and work meeting college expectations, this will be assessed weekly. Bursary funds are not guaranteed. If there is a high demand on the Discretionary funds, assistance may be reduced or withdrawn.
What if I need extra financial help?
You do not have to be on a bursary to request extra financial help. If you are experiencing exceptional financial hardship you can apply for additional assistance via Student Services.

If you are on Universal Credit, the college needs to see an Award Notice. The college will use the highlighted figures seen in the example below to calculate whether you meet the criteria for a Bursary.

Example of a Universal Credit monthly award notice

How your Universal Credit payments are worked out	
This is based on your circumstances between 1 December 2018 and 31 December 2018	
1. First, we bring together the basic parts of Universal Credit that apply to you.	
Standard Allowance for you and your partner	£498.89
Housing Element	£354.68
Child Element	£508.75
From 06/04/2017 Universal Credit will only pay the child element for 2 children or qualifying young people unless certain exceptions apply. For further information on when an exception may apply, see www.gov.uk	
Children on your claim XX XX	
We pay £277.08 for your first child or qualifying young person. For each other eligible child or qualifying young person, we pay £231.67	
ESFA note: there can be other/different elements in this section.	
Amount	£1,362.62
2. Next, we take account of any non-work income and other benefits you receive as well as your savings and capital.	
The total we take off for these items is:	£0.00
3. We then take account of your take-home pay	
Take-home pay is what's left after tax, National Insurance and any pension contributions have been deducted.	
Your take-home pay for this period is £1,352.85	
The first £192.00 of your take-home pay doesn't affect your Universal Credit monthly amount. Every £1.00 you earn in take-home pay over this £192.00 reduces your Universal Credit by 63 pence.	
	£731.34
The total we take off for take-home pay is:	£731.34
4. Lastly, we take account of any loans, advances, deductions and overpayments or third party payments you have.	
Social Fund	£22.15
Budgeting Allowance	£15.00
The total we take off for these items is:	£37.15
Total adjustments	£768.49
Your Universal Credit monthly payment for this period	£593.83

ESFA note: institutions should use the two highlighted figures, take-home pay and the amount of Universal Credit after deductions, when assessing household income.