

Financial Support 16-18 Discretionary Bursary Leaflet

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Financial Support for your Studies

Basingstoke College of Technology has a range of Financial Support to Support students, who are studying a Full time course at our college and we will do our best to help you achieve your full potential.

Guaranteed Bursary

This is a guaranteed sum of £1,200 per year for those learners aged between 16 and 18 years, who the Government class as 'vulnerable', as below:

- Learners looked after by the local authority
- Young parents in receipt of Income Support/Universal Credit in their own right
- Learners living independently and in receipt of Income Support/Universal Credit in their own right
- Disabled learners in receipt of ESA as well as DLA (PIP) benefits

Learners eligible for this bursary will have their transport and equipment costs covered by the bursary. Remaining amounts will be issued to the learners as a weekly allowance for food and other essential items for college, based on attendance.

The learners will be paid by BACS (Bank Automated Clearing Scheme) and not given cash, so they must have their own bank account.

Late enrollers and part time students will have a pro-rata allocation.

Some learners will also be eligible for the Free College Meal scheme.

Application for a Guaranteed Bursary

We do require evidence to be able to process your application, which you will need to submit copies of when you apply online <https://bcot.paymystudent.com/portal/>

This includes:

- A local authority letter confirming 'looked after' status.
- Recent copy of your Employment Support Allowance (ESA) statement as well as as a recent copy of your Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payment (PIP) (whichever is applicable)
- If living independently then we need a copy of your Universal Credit Statement (full pages) and we will need 3 statement dates
- A copy of Income support (IS) if applicable

Discretionary Bursary 16-18 students

This Bursary is applicable to:

- Learners (16-18) whose family income is below £25,000 per year.
- Learners over 19 or learners 16-18 whose families are in receipt of:

- 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 Guaranteed element of the 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 p.a., as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.
- Universal Credit with an annual gross income of no more than £7,400 p.a.

Your application for a Discretionary Bursary

We do require documentary evidence, to be able to process your application (please see list of evidence required leaflet), which you will need to submit copies with your online application <https://bcot.paymystudent.com>

Examples of evidence needed include

- Most recent copy of your Welfare/Benefit entitlement
- Most recent copy of your Child Tax Credit/Working tax Credit Award notification or Annual Tax Credit Review (issued in Apr TC603R) (provisional awards not accepted) (all pages)
- P60 or 3 months worth of pay statements
- Self assessment letter/letter from accountant
- Current Bank statement(s) including savings accounts (please note that savings in excess of £16,000 would mean that you are not eligible for the Bursary)
- Universal Credit Statement 3 copies (all pages)
- Pension Notification
- Bank statements
- Council tax statement/ Tenancy agreement (if applicable)

It should be noted that it may be necessary to obtain additional documentary evidence not listed in order to establish household income.

Kit and Equipment

If your income is less than £18,000 p.a then we may be able to help with additional costs for essential kit and equipment and DBS checks (applicable to your course)

Please note that kit and equipment will be purchased after the October half term break, and the equipment will be on loan to the student for the duration of the course, The equipment therefore must be returned to the faculty department at the end of their programme of study or you may be invoiced for the cost. If you withdraw from your course, all kit and equipment(s) will also need to be returned or you may be invoiced for the cost of the kit and equipment.

We cannot refund any items purchased yourself before funds have been allocated.

The issue of kit and equipment will be based on 90% attendance

Travel Pass(es)

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions we may have to offer payments in lieu of travel pass(es) for the days you attend college, this will probably continue until the college returns to a normal schedule.

For those families/students whose income is above £18,000 per annum, there will be a cost towards travel pass(es) of £50 per term or £100 for both passes. This must be paid before the ticket(s) are ordered.

Any learner applying for travel assistance will receive pass(es) termly.

This will be based on attendance being 90% or better and £50 payment being received if applicable.

Rail Pass

A list of approved stations are below. This will allow learners to travel between their home station and Basingstoke, Monday to Friday in term time only. If your home station is not on this list then please select the closest one.

Aldershot, Andover, Bramley, Brookwood, Eastleigh, Farnborough Main, Fleet, Grateley, Hook, Micheldever, Mortimer, Reading Stations, Sailsbury, Shawford, Southampton Airport, Southampton Central, Winchester, Winchfield and Woking.

All tickets must be collected from the college during or after enrolment, and if you do not have an existing Rail ID photo card we will need a passport photograph of the student prior to the pass being released. We are not able to post out any tickets to your home address.

General Information

A charge of £10 will be levied for the replacement of a lost rail pass, please note only one replacement per academic year is allowed.

Bus Pass

Bus passes are available to learners living 1.5miles or 30 minutes walking time or more from BCoT, calculated using the learner's postcode on the RAC route planner. We can only authorise bus pass(s) from Stagecoach,

Unirider Zone 1:

For use within the Basingstoke town centre area, which is bounded by Bramley, Sherfield on Loddon, Sherborne St John, Old Basing (The Hatch), Kempshott Park, Hackwood Park Gates and Oakley

Unirider Zone 2:

For use on journeys to Basingstoke from out of town areas including Baughurst, Hook, Overton, Pamber Heath, Tadley and Whitchurch. You will also be able to use this pass in Zone 1.

General information

A replacement bus pass will cost £25, regardless of income or time remaining on the pass.

Childcare

Care to Learn

The Government operates the Care 2 Learn scheme for those learners who are aged under 20 years (as at 31 August of the start your course), have a child and are claiming Child Benefit.

Care 2 Learn will fund up to £160 per child per week to a registered childcare provider.

All applications must be completed online via www.gov.uk/care-to-learn , early application is recommended, Care to Learn will NOT back date payments if the form is received by them 30 days after the course has started.

Please be aware that if there is any shortfall in your weekly childcare fees then you will be liable to pay this shortfall. The bursary, nor Student Experience, is able to assist with any costs.

Free College Meal (FCM) scheme

The Free College Meal scheme is a Government initiative and is for learners who are:

- Aged between 16 and 18 years old (as at 31 August at the start of your course) – if you turn 19 during the academic year you remain eligible until the end of the academic year

To qualify for Free College Meals

The learner or their parents must be in receipt of one 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 Guaranteed element of the 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 pa, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
- Universal Credit with net earnings not exceeding the equivalent of £7,400 pa

We do require evidence to be able to process this application which you will need to submit copies of online applications, <https://bcot.paymystudent.com/portal/>

A food allowance of £3.50 will be available to the learner on the days they are expected to attend their course. Money is allocated to the student identification badge automatically, which can be redeemed at the college's refectory (South site).

The allowance does not cover snacks such as crisps, chocolates or drinks etc.

The allowance must be used on the day they are scheduled into classes and cannot be 'saved up', you should also note that if you have finished your scheduled lessons for the day, i.e. you are only scheduled for lessons up to 11 am, the system recognizes that you are no longer scheduled into lessons and you can no longer access the FCM for the rest of that day.

FCM will only commence once the application has been approved.