

# Financial Support CHILDCARE 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.

### Childcare

#### *Childcare eligibility:*

- Be enrolled on a course at BCOT studying for a Level 1 or 2 course
- Be enrolled on a course at BCOT studying your first Level 3 course (19-23 students only)
- Be a parent or the main carer
- Lived in the UK for 3 years or more
- Household income less than £25,000.

#### What Funding applies to you?

If you are a parent under 20 years old and are in receipt of Child Benefit you can apply for Childcare funding. This is done through the care to Learn on line application portal

#### *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](http://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.

#### Childcare for students older than 20 years of age

If studying for a Level 1 or 2 course or are aged 19-23 and studying for your first Level 3 course, you may be eligible for help with your childcare costs, through the 19+ Discretionary Bursary, you can apply through the online application portal <https://bcot.paymystudent.com/portal/>

#### Advance Learner Loan- Childcare

You must be aged over 20 on the first day of your course, you must be studying a Level 3 course or above.

To be eligible you must be:

- Living in the UK on the first day of your course
- Have been living in the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Mann for 3 years or more, before starting your course
- Are a UK National or has 'settled status' (meaning there are no restrictions on how long you can stay in the UK)

You can apply for Childcare funding once your Adult Learner loan has been approved, Until then the costs are the responsibility of the parent.

## Childcare Agreement

- The Childcare Bursary is only available for Registered Childcare Providers, it cannot pay for family or friends (unless they are registered child-minders) to look after your child(ren)
- The Childcare Bursary is only payable for childcare provision when you are timetabled for a lesson. If you or your child(ren) are not able to attend due to sickness then the bursary cannot pay for childcare provision and you should not use the Childcare Provider.
- If you choose a Registered Child-minder we can only allocate a maximum of half hour drop off and collection time. For example if your course finishes on a Monday at 3pm we pay childcare after 3.30pm.
- If you require childcare for before and after school hours only, we will require you to pay for this, provide us with proof of payment, and we will refund you directly.
- We cannot pay for any childcare provision after the last day of your course.
- The Childcare Bursary will not pay childcare for holidays taken during term time. If you go on holiday during the academic term you will be invoiced for this period. Failure to pay it will result in your funding being withdrawn and affect any future application for assistance.
- If you change your childcare provider you must inform us IMMEDIATELY, most providers require a paid notice period. The Childcare Bursary will not pay for a period of notice and a new provider at the same time.
- Please contact us (Tel: 01256 306393) and your childcare provider if you or your children are off sick.
- If you withdraw from your course or stop attending please inform us IMMEDIATELY as you will be invoiced for the childcare costs incurred.
- If your timetable or course changes please inform us IMMEDIATELY
- If we have to give notice to your childcare provider due to any reason other than cancellation at the end of the academic year, you will not be able to use them during or after the notice period, unless you choose to pay yourself.
- The Childcare Bursary is externally audited, as part of this process we MUST make regular checks on your attendance at college and the attendance of your child(ren) with the childcare provider
- The Childcare Bursary does not pay for 'late pick up' charges - these you must pay yourself

- Any overpayments made to you or your childcare provider, regardless of fault are recoverable by us from you
- If Childcare is required during the half term weeks, this must be requested and agreed to with the childcare provider and a request made for the Childcare Bursary to pay for this based on need and available funding.
- You need to inform us of any changes with regards to Income Support or increase your household income, as this may affect your Childcare Bursary.
- The Government currently offer 2, 3 and 4 year old children free childcare sessions. If your child is in receipt or due to receive this grant these must be used first to cover any childcare requirements for your course before any Childcare Bursary monies are allocated
- If you have a partner at home who is not working we will expect your partner to look after your child (ren) unless you can provide a reason as to why this cannot happen and can provide evidence to support this claim.
- Your attendance at BCoT will be monitored and absences must be justified with the Student Welfare team as well as your tutor. A minimum attendance of 90% is required to continue to receive support. The college will apply some discretion to promote retention and accommodate students' individual needs, however you MUST communicate these issues to the Student Welfare team as they occur.
- Your attendance and achievement this academic year will influence any future years request for childcare assistance.