



NIA SIXTH FORM BURSARY FUND

The Government has set aside some money for Schools, Colleges, Training Providers and Local Authorities to allocate to young people who need financial support to stay on in further education or training. This is called the 16-19 Bursary Fund.

This fund could help you with education-related costs that may arise during the school year, including essentials like a meal during the day or transport to the Academy. It might also provide you with extra help to buy books, clothing or equipment for your course, or pay for educational visits.

Each School, College or Training Provider receives an individual allocation of these funds for the academic year from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). Once these funds have been awarded to eligible students there is no guarantee that further monies will be available to support learners who subsequently submit an application.

The 16 – 19 Bursary Fund has two elements:

Vulnerable Student Bursary – you could receive up to £1200 if you:

- are in Local Authority care, or have recently left Local Authority care; or
- receive Income Support, or Universal Credit, in your own name; or
- receive both Disability Living Allowance (or Personal Independence Payments) and Employment & Support Allowance (ESA) (or Universal Credit in place of ESA) in your own name.

Discretionary Bursary

Providers may then use their discretion to make awards to young people in ways that best meet the needs and circumstances of their students. This payment is made to students whose circumstances are as follows:

- Students who are eligible to receive a Free School Meal
- Students whose household income is below £25,200
- Students who have been affected by a sudden, exceptional change in financial circumstances.

Am I eligible?

To be eligible you must be at least 16 years old and under 19 years old at the start on the 31 August. You must also be taking part in full-time or part-time further education, or training.

Further information and advice for young people regarding the 16 -19 Bursary Fund is available from the [Education Funding Agency website](#).

Who will the bursary be paid to?

If your application is approved as a Vulnerable Student Bursary you will receive a payment of up to £1200 in the academic year, payable in equal instalments across 10 months.

If your application is approved as a Discretionary Bursary you could receive a payment of up to £400, in the Academic Year, payable in equal instalments across 10 months. The amount you will receive will be determined by your individual circumstances and the requirements of the course you are studying.

All payments made under the scheme will be subject to meeting the attendance and behaviour requirements set out in the Bursary Agreement, this will be given to you if your application is successful and must be signed before any payments are made. Full details of these requirements can be obtained directly from the Head of Sixth Form.

Applications for the 16 – 19 Bursary can be submitted at any time, but it is important to recognise that there is a limited amount of funding available, therefore, all applications are subject to the availability of funding, at the time of your application. Applications will not be considered once all funds have been distributed.

How will the bursary be paid?

The bursary awarded to you will be paid directly into your bank account. Payments must be made to the student, not a parent or carer, and therefore it is important that students have a bank account set up before completing the bursary paperwork. It is possible to set up bank and building society accounts for students under 18, more information about this is available from individual banks, but you may also find [the Money site](#) helpful.

Northampton International Academy is a cashless site, meaning we are not able to give cash payments for the discretionary bursary or smaller sums, such as travel tickets, in cash. However, we do endeavour to assist students in need through online payments.

All bursary payments will be subject to your attendance and behaviour meeting the standards set out in the Bursary Agreement.

How do I apply?

If, having read this guidance, you believe you are eligible for a payment under the 16 – 19 Bursary Fund, please complete the 16 – 19 Bursary Fund application form and submit this, along with the required evidence of household income. Please complete the bursary form as follows:

Section A: Student details

This must be completed in full



Section B: Level required

This section must be completed to indicate which level of bursary you are applying for. Please ensure you read this carefully and select the appropriate bursary level for your household income to ensure your application is successful.



Section C: Parent/Carer details

In this section, you need to give full parent/carers details including household income, employment status and all benefits received. You will also need to identify how you intend to use the bursary money if awarded, and give the student bank account details for payments.



Section D: Declaration

This statement must be signed by both parent/carers and student to confirm you have read and agree to the terms and conditions attached to the bursary funding.

What evidence is required?

For the Vulnerable Student (Level 1) bursary, the following documentation is required:

- Letter detailing the benefit the young person is entitled to
- Written confirmation of current or previous looked-after status from the Local Authority which looks after them or provides leaving care services

For the Discretionary (Level 2 and 3) bursary, most recent versions of the following documentation is required:

- Copies of benefits paperwork
- Last 3 months universal credit award notice
- P60 or the last 3 months pay slips
- Evidence of self-employed earnings (certified accounts for the tax year)

How will I know if my application has been successful?

You will be notified in writing via Edulink to say whether or not your application has been successful. If successful, this notification will include how much has been awarded to you, and when you can expect to receive your first payment.

Will the amount I receive change each month?

You will receive the same amount each month unless you fail to meet the attendance, punctuality and behaviour policies set out in the bursary agreement form. If you are not being paid because you have not met these expectations, you will be informed via Edulink. Each month is a fresh start so poor attendance in one month will not impact future payments.