



St George's School 16-19 Bursary Fund Guidance

The Department for Education (DfE) established the 16-19 Bursary Fund in 2011. The aim of the fund is to help 16 to 19 year olds continue in education, where they might struggle for financial reasons. It enables those students to access additional funds to support learning, participation in academic activities to enrich students learning experience, and pursue applications to Higher Education.

For students to be eligible for the bursary fund they must meet the age and residency criteria as listed below:

- Be aged over 16 and under 19 on 31st August 2023
- Be enrolled on a full time course during 2023–2024
- Meet the ESFA's residency criteria as set out in the ESFA Funding Guidance

There are two types of bursary:

- A **vulnerable** bursary of up to £1,200 a year for students who are:
 - in care
 - care leavers
 - receiving Income Support, or Universal Credit because they are financially supporting themselves or financially supporting themselves and someone who is dependent on them and living with them such as a child or partner
 - receiving Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments in **their own right** and Employment Support Allowance or Universal Credit **in their own right**

Students may only receive the amount they actually need to participate and we are not permitted to automatically award students the full amount if we cannot evidence their needs.

- A **discretionary** bursary for students who are not in the groups above but:
 - have a gross annual household income below £27,000 **or**
 - who are facing other genuine financial barriers to attending sixth form.

A discretionary bursary is awarded based on specific requirements and can only be used to help students meet the costs related to participation, e.g. travel to school, books and equipment, fieldtrips, and other course-related costs. It can also be used towards the cost of attending university interviews and open days. Note that travel to school costs can only be reimbursed to a maximum of £3 per day.

To continue to receive a bursary you must satisfy the following conditions:

- No unauthorised or unexplained absence and attendance in line with school expectations.
- Your record of completion of academic work should be in line with school expectations.



Students should apply for a bursary as soon as possible after admission in September and ideally before **6th October** using the 16-19 Bursary application form below. In order to assess each student's actual need for financial help you will need to provide appropriate supporting evidence (*If a student is eligible for free school meals no documentary evidence is required, although they must still complete the application form*).

It will be possible to make further applications throughout the academic year should individual circumstances change or further specific costs be identified, but students should be aware that there is a limited amount of funding available.

Successful applicants will be informed and any payments can only be made directly into the student's bank account.

What can it be used for;

- Books and other equipment for your course
- Transport
- Education related costs
- Academic trips
- Transport costs incurred to attend University open days

What can't it be used for

- Music lessons
- Non-academic trips