

Application for Financial and/or Travel Assistance 2026/27 Guidance

Please complete all the sections you can on pages 1-3 of the financial and or travel assistance application form.

Please return it with the following information (all ages):

- ☐ Proof of household income (e.g. if you're living with parents/carers, their tax credits award statements for 3 recent months, or proof of your own income if living independently).
- ☐ Evidence of a bank account in your own name, so if necessary we can make payments directly to you.

If you are under 19 on 31st August 2026 and any of the following criteria apply please send in evidence so we can award you the Vulnerable Young People's Bursary

- ☐ For learners in receipt of Universal Credit (UC) or Income Support (IS), a copy of your IS award notice, dated within 3 months or a full monthly payment breakdown for the most recent 3 months UC payments. This must clearly state that the claim is in your name/confirm you are entitled to the benefits in your own right. The evidence must not state any conditions that prevent you from participating in further education or training. For students in receipt of UC, institutions must also see a document such as a tenancy agreement in your name, a child benefit receipt, children's birth certificates or utility bills.
- ☐ For students who are in care or a care leaver, written confirmation of your current or previous looked-after status from the relevant local authority – this is the local authority that looks after you or provides your leaving care services. The evidence could be a letter or an email but must be clearly from the local authority.
- ☐ For learners receiving UC/ESA and DLA or PIP, a copy of your UC/ESA claim from DWP. Evidence of receipt of DLA or PIP must also be provided.

If you are under 19 on 31st August 2026 and your any of the following apply to your household please send in evidence so we can flag your eligibility for free college meals to the funders.

Free meals are targeted at disadvantaged students. Free meals in FE defines disadvantage as students being in receipt of, or having parents who are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

A student is only eligible to receive a free meal when they, or a responsible adult on their behalf, have made a successful application to the institution where they are enrolled.

Households in receipt of Income-related Employment and Support Allowance or the guarantee element of Pension Credit may also be entitled to a meal.

You may also be flagged for free meals support if you provide the above evidence and have an Education and Healthcare Plan or if you are aged 19 and progressing onto the second year of a 2-year level 3 programme.

As soon as your application has been assessed we will notify you about your entitlement.

You will be advised if you need to see a staff member to get your ID badge activated for meals or to pick up a bus pass.

We will contact you via email so please always check your student emails once you are enrolled.