



The BRIT School  
16-19 Bursary Fund Policy  
2025-2026

Student Financial Support Policy 2025-2026
Approved by: Louise Cooper
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## **1. OVERVIEW**

### **1.1 Introduction**

The BRIT School prides itself on offering an inclusive learning environment and recognises that some students that attend the School at Post 16, need additional financial support to enable them to fully access the course and remain until the end of their Post 16 tuition programme.

Each year, the School receives allocations of funding from the Department for Education (DfE) to provide financial support to our Post 16 students.

The School administers the financial support funds and distributes them to provide financial support in order to help students overcome financial barriers to learning, ensuring they can take part in or continue learning and access educational and progression opportunities. The School is committed to closing the attainment gap between students from disadvantaged and more advantaged backgrounds.

Any Post 16 student may apply for financial support and should be aware that their application will receive consideration in accordance with the eligibility requirements stated in Section 2.2.

This Policy outlines the School's approach to the allocation of financial support funds and the procedure for the allocation and administration of the following funding streams:

- 16-19 Bursary Fund (Discretionary Bursary and Vulnerable Bursary Awards)
- Further Education Free Meals

### **1.2 Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure:

- Bursary funds are distributed in accordance with the regulations and guidelines laid out by the funding agencies, including the DfE.
- Bursary funding applications are processed in a fair and transparent manner which is accountable and easily understandable.
- Information regarding eligibility, the application process and the administration of the award is available via the school website.
- The eligibility criteria for bursary funds are fully explained.
- Systems are in place to administer, record and monitor bursary funds, to ensure funds are used for their intended purpose.

### **1.3 Legislative/Quality Framework**

The School will apply and adhere to the following published guidelines for the use of these funds, according to age groups and funding types:

- Free meals in further education funded institutions: guide for the 2024 to 2025 academic year
- Funding regulations for post-16 provision 2024 to 2025
- 16 to 19 Bursary Fund guide 2025 to 2026 academic year

The policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Data Protection policy
- Attendance policy
- Behaviour policy
- Complaints policy

## 1.4 Scope

This policy applies to all eligible (see Section 2.2) students attending The BRIT School.

## 2. THE BURSARY FUNDS

### 2.1 Conditions of Payment

This policy covers the financial support funds which are available to eligible students. Students who apply for any of the funds will be assessed individually and awarded support based on their financial need. Please note:

- Bursaries are subject to available funds and eligibility does not guarantee entitlement to funds.
- Funds will be allocated to students who meet the eligibility criteria on a 'first come first served' basis, with any funds that become available being reallocated to those on the waiting list.
- Bursary payments are subject to maintaining attendance of at least 96% and behaving in line with School Policies and Procedures.
- Bursary awards only cover one academic year and learners must re-apply for support on an annual basis.
- Successful applications made during the course of the academic year will not include any back payments.

### 2.2 Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for funding from any of the School Bursary Funds, all applicants must meet the following criteria.

- Residency criteria as set out by the DfE funding regulations and Appendix A
- Have a gross annual household income below £30,000.00 per year. The School may choose to use its discretion where household income exceeds this amount but it is identified that support is needed.
- Able to demonstrate 'relative financial need' for costs that may deter them joining, continuing or completing their course.

#### **Eligible Education Provision**

Students must be participating in provision that is subject to inspection by a public body that assures quality (for example Ofsted). The provision must also fall into one of these groups:

- Funded directly by the DfE or by the DfE via a local authority
- Otherwise publicly funded and lead to a qualification (up to and including level 3) accredited by Ofqual or on the list of qualifications approved for funding 14 to 19

Students on apprenticeship programmes, or any waged training, are employed, rather than in education. They are not eligible for the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund.

Non-employed students aged 16 to 19 who are participating in a Prince's Trust Team Programme are eligible to receive the bursary in the same way as any other student participating in an eligible, publicly funded course.

The School reserves the right to apply discretion to ensure that individual students' needs and personal circumstances are taken into account when decisions are made.

Additional specific eligibility requirements apply to each fund as listed within the Bursary Funds Sections below:

### **2.3 16-19 Bursary Funds**

#### **2.3.1 16-19 Discretionary Bursary Fund**

Additional Eligibility Criteria (in addition to 2.2):

- Aged 16 or over but under 19 at 31st August 2025
- Living at home with a parent/guardian and can provide evidence that the total household income is less than £30,000.00pa (**This figure will/can include all benefits**). The household income figure is calculated using the assessment information in section 4.2 of the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund guide: 2025 to 2026.

And/or

- the student received free school meals during the last academic year and can provide evidence certified by their local authority, then the student may be entitled to receive a Discretionary Bursary.

Types of support available:

- Support with travel costs to and from School (for students who live 2.5 miles or more from School)
- essential course equipment (e.g. specialist clothing, art materials, IT equipment/computer software)
- course-related books
- essential educational trips & visits
- contribution to the costs of voluntary trips subject to funds being available
- authorised university visits (e.g. university interviews)
- UCAS fees
- School arranged work experience related costs
- Discretionary FE free meals

Applications are assessed on an individual basis to ensure the financial support is used in a way that benefits the students the most. Support may be offered either in-kind or via a BACS payment.

Students who are awarded FE Free Meals will automatically be eligible for support from the 16-19 Discretionary Bursary.

### 2.3.2 16-19 Vulnerable Bursary Fund

Additional eligibility criteria (in addition to 2.2)

- Aged 16 or over but under 19 at 31st August 2025 and

Can provide evidence that they are:

- In care; or
- A care leaver; or
- in receipt of Income Support or Universal Credit in their own name 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; or
- Receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payments (PIP) in their own right as well as Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) or Universal Credit in their own right

\*Students aged 19 or over are not eligible for bursaries for vulnerable groups.

#### **Support available:**

Up to £1,200 per year (pro rata amounts payable for courses less than 30 weeks).

Students will only receive the amount they actually need to participate and will not be automatically awarded £1,200 if they do not need the full amount.

Applications are assessed on an individual basis to ensure the financial support is used in a way that benefits the students the most, with in kind support offered in the first instance.

This may include:

- Support with travel costs to and from School for students who live 2.5 miles or more from School)
- essential course equipment (e.g. specialist clothing, art materials, IT equipment/computer software )
- course-related books
- essential educational trips & visits
- contribution to the costs of voluntary trips subject to funds being available
- authorised university visits (e.g. university interviews)
- UCAS fees
- School arranged work experience related costs
- Discretionary free School meals

In exceptional circumstances and where it is assessed that the learner may need extra help to remain in education, further bursary funding can be allocated from the 16-19 Discretionary Bursary Fund. If paid from the Discretionary Bursary, all the eligibility criteria and usual assessment processes must be met and followed.

### **2.3.3 16-19 FE Free Meals**

Additional eligibility criteria (in addition to 2.2)

- Aged 16 or over but under 19 at 31st August 2025

Eligibility for Free Meals will be assessed at the same time as the bursary application.

FE Free School 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:

- 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 guarantee element of 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, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC))
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after someone stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit with net earnings not exceeding the equivalent of £7,400 pa (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

A student is only eligible to receive a free meal when they, or a responsible adult on their behalf, have made a successful application and provided evidence of their eligibility.

Students who are awarded FE Free Meals will also automatically be eligible for support from the 16-19 Discretionary Bursary.

### **2.4 Capacity and Delivery Fund (CDF) - Industry Placements**

This fund is to support vocational students undertaking CDF industry placements who may need to travel further to access their placements and/or incur additional costs for equipment and clothing.

This fund is not restricted to students who would be entitled to receive bursary support. Students wishing to apply for this support should speak to Student Services and complete a short application form at least 2 weeks prior to the placement starting.

### **3. APPLICATION & ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT**

#### **3.1 Application**

Applications for financial assistance must be made via the School's application process. Applications will only be processed from enrolled students as defined by the School.

Students must make their application as soon as possible as funds are limited and will be awarded on a 'first come, first served' basis. The exception to this is students applying to the 16-19 Vulnerable Bursary which is guaranteed for eligible students.

Applicants will be required to provide evidence of their eligibility; however exceptional circumstances will be taken into consideration.

All income and benefits (including housing benefit and council tax benefit) are taken into account.

#### **3.2 Assessment**

An assessment is made based on a completed application with supporting evidence of household income and/or eligible status.

Each application is assessed individually, and awards are based on financial need, available funds, funding rules and School policy.

Award notices will be issued in writing by email, detailing the student's individual award.

## **4. ALLOCATION**

### **4.1 Essential Course Equipment Grant**

Payments for essential course equipment or travel will be paid directly to the student. Students must specify the required equipment or travel and costs within the application and provide evidence/receipts for all purchases made using the payments they are given. Where the student has already purchased approved kit, equipment or any other approved item, then payment will be reimbursed to the student's bank account by BACS, once evidence of purchase has been received by Student Services.

Any extenuating cases will be referred to the Student Services Administration Manager at The BRIT School for consideration.

### **4.2 Travel Support**

Eligible students who live more than 2.5 miles away from School, may be eligible for a fortnightly payment towards travel costs. Any travel award will be based on the most cost-effective method of travel, and will be paid to the student's bank account on a fortnightly basis, subject to the student achieving 96% attendance over the previous term.

### **4.3 FE Free Meals**

Students eligible for FE Free Meals will receive an award of £3.25 for each day the student is timetabled to attend School. This will be loaded to the student's School Wisepay account to be used as credit in the School canteen. No cash payment can be made for free meal support.

Arrangements to ensure eligible students receive a free meal when studying or participating in an activity offsite will be put in place as required.

Discretionary Free Meals may also be awarded to students who do not meet the criteria for FE Free Meals.

### **4.4 UCAS, University Visits and Work Experience**

Eligible students can be reimbursed for UCAS application fees, or costs associated with attending approved university visits or School organised work experience.

Payments will be reimbursed to the student's bank account by BACS once evidence of purchase has been received by Student Services.

## **5. MONITORING**

- The funds will be allocated and initially monitored by the Student Services and Finance Departments to ensure that the correct amounts are allocated.
- The Finance Department will liaise with the Student Services Administration Manager at The BRIT School and reconcile awards and payments.
- External audits will take place.

## **6. ADMINISTRATION**

The School is permitted to retain up to 5% of the allocated Bursary Funds (excluding the 16-19 Vulnerable Bursary) to cover the costs to administer the financial support for students.

## **7. IMPLICATIONS FOR EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

The 16-19 Bursary Fund Policy and Procedures have been developed with due regard to the needs of the student.

## **8. COMPLAINTS / CONCERNS**

Any initial concerns or queries should be made in writing and addressed to the Student Services Administration Manager who will investigate the situation and respond within 10 working days.

If a complaint is received, then this will be dealt with via the School Complaints Procedures.

## APPENDIX A: Residency Eligibility

To be eligible, students must meet the residency criteria in DfE funding rules for Post 16 provision.

- a. a person on the 'relevant date' who is 'settled' in the UK, and who has been ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands (that is including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) for the 3 years preceding the 'relevant date'. 'Settled' means having either indefinite leave to enter or remain (ILE/ILR) or having the right of abode in the UK. British citizens and certain other people have the right of abode in the UK as follows:
  - i. British nationals who hold a United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland passport
  - ii. Irish Citizens
  - iii. European Union nationals or family members of EEA and Swiss workers (resident in the UK before 1 January 2021) with settled status
  - iv. students who are children of Turkish workers where the Turkish worker has been lawfully employed and resident in the UK before 1 January 2021
  - v. British Dependent Territory Citizens (now known as British Overseas Territory Citizens)
  - vi. those whose passports have been endorsed to show they have right of abode in the UK
  - vii. those who have a certificate of naturalisation or registration as a British Citizen
  - viii. those with Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) visa who have been given Home Office permission to reside in the UK

In addition to the groups outlined above, DfE will also consider the following groups of students (including those who may not have lived in the UK for the last 3 years) to be eligible for funding:

- a. people with refugee status (RS) or humanitarian protection (HP) or discretionary leave (DL) or exceptional leave to enter or remain (ELE/ELR), their spouses, civil partners and children
- b. people with recently settled status (this means those having been granted indefinite leave to enter or remain, right of abode or British citizenship within the 3 years immediately preceding the start of the course)
- c. people granted pre-settled status following our exit from EU

In addition to the groups above, DfE will also consider the following groups of students (including those who may not have lived in the UK for the last 3 years), aged up to and including the age of 18, as eligible for funding as follows:

- a. those who are accompanying or joining parents or spouses or civil partners who have the right of abode or leave to enter or remain in the UK (or accompanying or joining relevant family members, usually parents, who are UK or Irish nationals), or those who are children of diplomats
- b. those who are dependants of teachers coming to the UK on a teacher exchange scheme
- c. those who are residing legally in the UK (including those entering the UK in the last 3 years who are or were not accompanied by their parents) who are British (or Irish)

citizens or those whose passports have been endorsed (or as part of a move to digital immigration systems, either a biometric residency permit (BRP), or an equivalent digital status and/or an endorsement letter) to either show they have the right of abode in this country or to show that they have no restrictions on working in the UK

- d. those who are dependents of adults residing legally in the UK who have been given immigration rights as workers to reside in the UK
- e. those who are dependents of foreign students where the accompanying parent or legal guardian has a student visa (the accompanying parent or legal guardian is excluded from our funding as set out in paragraph 71)
- f. asylum seekers
- g. those having been granted leave under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 (the 'Dubs' amendment)
- h. those having been granted Calais leave to remain
- i. those who are (including unaccompanied asylum seekers) placed in the care of social services or those in receipt of Section 4 support

### **Asylum Seekers**

Generally, asylum seekers are not entitled to public funds. Accompanied asylum seeking children (those under 18 with an adult relative or partner) and those aged 18 and above are entitled to education, but not to public funds. If they are destitute, they can apply to the Home Office for suitable housing and cash for essentials, but they are not eligible for other income.

As long as an asylum seeker has not had their application for asylum refused, institutions can provide in-kind student support such as books, equipment, or a travel pass. Under no circumstances should an institution give cash to any asylum seeker unless they are an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child (UASC).

### **Unaccompanied asylum seeking children**

Unaccompanied asylum seeking children do not receive cash support from the Home Office and are the responsibility of the local authority. They are treated as looked after children and are eligible for a bursary for vulnerable groups ('in care' group), where they have a financial need.

When these young people reach legal adulthood at age 18, institutions must consider their immigration status. If the asylum claim is decided in their favour, the local authority must provide them with the same support and services as they do care leavers. As such, they continue to be eligible for a bursary as a student from a vulnerable group until they reach the upper age limit.

Where an asylum claim is not supported, the individual may not be able to stay legally in the UK. When asylum claims have been fully heard/the appeals process exhausted, an individual has no entitlement to public funds (with a few exceptions where the withdrawal of support would be seen as a breach of human rights).