

# 16-18 BURSARY Information 2025-26

The College may be able to offer financial support with essential course related costs, to students who are experiencing hardship. Each application will be assessed individually.

Please apply early, as funds are limited, and financial support may not be offered in all circumstances.

There are two 16-19 Bursary funds available. Please see detailed information on each fund below.

We will notify you by email once your application has been processed.

## Discretionary Bursary Fund

### Eligibility for fund

- Aged 16-18 (inc. 19+ with an EHCP or 19+ Continuer\*) at the start of the academic year (on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025)
- Enrolled on a further education course

\*19+ Continuer - a student who started a 16-18 course and turned 19 before the start of the final year of the same course.

Please note: this fund cannot be used if you are enrolled on an apprenticeship.

### What are the income thresholds and what might I be eligible for?

This table provides guidance on what a student might be eligible for, following the assessment of household income.

Band	Income threshold	Income evidence required	Will cover 100% of the costs below
Band A	In receipt of a means tested benefit i.e., eligible for Free School Meals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universal Credit - your take home pay must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)</li> <li>• Income Support</li> <li>• Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance</li> <li>• Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)</li> <li>• Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999</li> <li>• The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit</li> <li>• Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)</li> <li>• Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free Meals</li> <li>• Exeter College Travel Scheme (or assistance towards travel costs if under 3 miles but more than a 40-minute walk)</li> <li>• Essential equipment</li> <li>• Specialist clothing / uniform</li> <li>• Resource fees</li> <li>• Essential books</li> <li>• Essential trips and visits</li> <li>• Academy fees</li> </ul>
Band B	Household income £30K or under	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last 3 (or less if claim has been made recently) full Universal Credit statements showing take home pay and payment</li> <li>• All pages of a tax credit award notice showing finalised income for 2024/25</li> <li>• P60/Last 3 months or 12 weeks of pay slips</li> <li>• Welfare benefits letter showing current and active claim</li> <li>• Latest verified accounts of self-employment e.g., latest submitted tax return</li> <li>• Pension statement</li> <li>• Details of income from all other sources e.g., shares, investments, savings, rental income</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exeter College Travel Scheme (or assistance towards travel costs if under 3 miles but more than a 40-minute walk)</li> <li>• Essential equipment</li> <li>• Specialist clothing / uniform</li> <li>• Resource fees</li> <li>• Essential books</li> <li>• Essential trips and visits</li> <li>• Academy fees</li> </ul>
Band C	Household income between £30-40K	As per Band B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exeter College Travel Scheme (£150 per term / £450 per academic year)</li> </ul>
Band D	Household income between £40-50K	As per Band B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exeter College Travel Scheme (£50 per term / £150 per academic year)</li> </ul>

## **What counts as a 'household'?**

Students will normally be assessed on the income of those they live with. Therefore, households will be assessed as follows:

- Students who live with both parents/guardians, will be assessed on the income of both adults
- Students who live with a lone parent/guardian, will be assessed on the income of that adult
- Students who live with a stepparent/guardian will be assessed on the income of both adults
- Students who live with somebody else, where that person claims child benefit in respect of the student, will be assessed on the income of that adult(s)
- Where a student lives by themselves, they may or may not be considered independent:
  - if a student's living costs are being paid by a parent, then the student is considered dependent on that parent and will be assessed as outlined above
  - if a student meets their living costs in full through work and/or benefits, then as long as nobody is claiming child benefit in respect of the student, the student will be assessed as independent, and no other income will be considered
- Where a student lives with somebody other than the situations outlined above, will be considered on a case-by-case basis

## **Vulnerable Bursary Fund**

### **Eligibility for fund**

- Aged 16-18 at the start of the academic year (on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025)
- Enrolled on a further education course

Please note: if you are a 19+ continuer or are 19+ and have an EHCP, you will not be eligible for the Vulnerable Bursary but may still be eligible for the Discretionary Bursary in the final year of your course.

### **AND**

- In Care or a Care Leaver
- Receiving Personal Independence Payments (PIP) or Disability Living Allowance (DLA) in your own right as well as Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit in your own right
- Receiving Income Support, or Universal Credit because you are financially supporting yourself or financially supporting yourself and someone who is dependent on you and living with you, such as a child or partner

### **Evidence Required**

Please provide written confirmation of your current or previous looked after status from the relevant local authority.

### **OR**

Please provide a copy of your benefit award notice (e.g., DWP letter or Universal Credit statements) and additional documentation to confirm your independent status e.g., tenancy agreement, child benefit letter.

## **What I might be eligible for?**

If you meet the eligibility criteria, you may be entitled to a bursary amount of up to £1,200 (pro rata for courses lasting less than 30 weeks). If you meet the eligibility criteria but your financial needs are already met, you may not receive the maximum award.

### **How do I apply?**

Please use our online system (<https://exe-coll.ac.uk/school-leavers/support/financial-support/>) or return your completed paper application form with photocopies of your household income to the Bursary Team via post (please see details below). **Please note, we cannot accept applications via email.**

For further information regarding the 16-18 Bursary Funds, please visit the website or contact the Bursary Team:

Email: [bursary@exe-coll.ac.uk](mailto:bursary@exe-coll.ac.uk)

Telephone: 01392 400526

Address: Bursary Team, Exeter College, Hele Road, Exeter, EX4 4JS