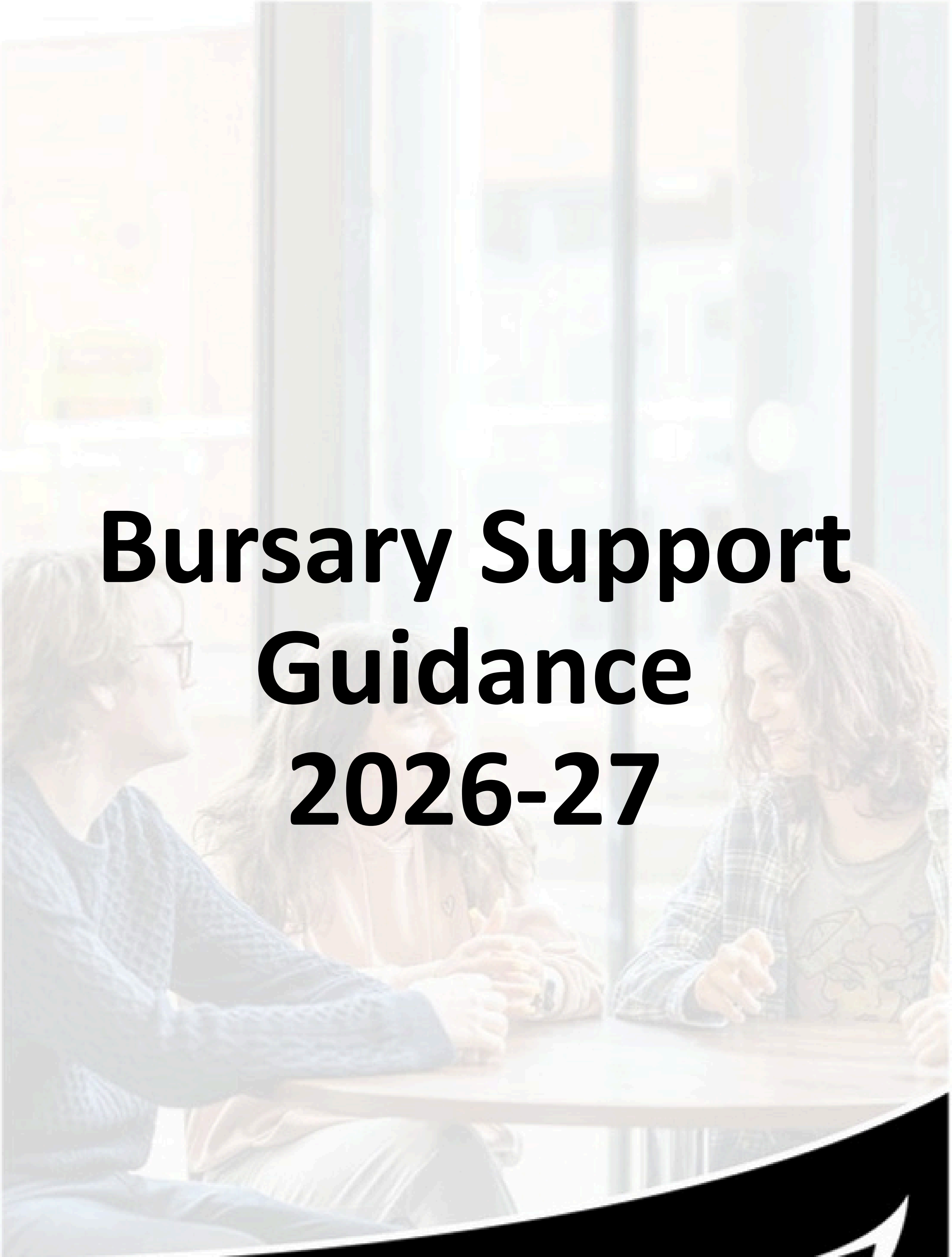

Bursary Support Guidance 2026-27

AMBITION COLLABORATION ENERGY

exeter college

Bursary Support Guidance 2026-27

The College may be able to offer financial support with ESSENTIAL course related costs and travel, to help students overcome their individual financial barriers (each application will be assessed individually).

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

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

Key stages and deadlines	Date
Bursary Applications open	16th July 2026
Deadline 1 – Applications received **up to this date will** be processed in time for the start of the college academic year.	7th August 2026
Deadline 2 – Applications received **on or after this date may not** be processed in time for the start of term due to our college enrolment process taking place.	8th August 2026
Deadline 3 – Any applications received after this date will be processed but you may be asked to purchase a travel pass at full cost until your Bursary application has been processed. A refund will then be processed based on your bursary being approved.	3rd September 2026

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 31st August 2026)
- Enrolled on a further education course
- Household Income of Under £35,000.00 (including any Universal Credit or Benefits claimed) This figure will be taken from the Universal Credit Statement.

** 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.

1. Who Can Apply?

- Age and Residency - The student must meet the DfE 16-19 bursary age and residency rules. If unsure apply and we will check.
- Annual Application – You must apply each academic year as household income and government guidance can change or you will be asked to sign a declaration that there have been no changes to your income.

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

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

Band	Income threshold	Income Type	Income evidence required	Will cover 100% of the costs below
A	Household income of under £35K	Benefits / Universal Credit Tax Credits Employment Self-Employment Pensions Vulnerable Group Evidence Dividends/ Saving	• **Full UC statement for last 3 months (All pages)** or Last 3 months JSA/ESA/ Income Support/ Housing Benefit/Pension Credit (If not on UC) • **Full Award Notice (All pages)** • Last 3 months payslips and/or latest P60 • Latest Self-Assessment and/or Accountant letter (headed paper) • Pension statement • Local Authority care letter or UC/IS in student name + tenancy contract; ESA+PIP/DLA+PIP letters • Details of income from all other sources e.g., shares, investments, savings, rental income	· Free School Meals (If receiving Universal Credit) · Exeter College Travel Scheme (or assistance towards travel costs if under 3 miles but more than a 40-minute walk) · Essential Kit & Equipment · Specialist clothing / uniform · Essential trips and visits · Academy fees

Band	Income threshold	Income Type	Income evidence required	Will cover 100% of the costs below
B	35k – 40k	· As Above	· As Above	· Exeter College Travel Scheme (£150.00 per term / £450.00 per academic year)
C	40k – 50k	· As Above	· As Above	· Exeter College Travel Scheme (£35.00 per term / £105.00 per Academic Year)

2. Who you live with:

Provide details of every adult in the household and the relationship to the student (parents, guardians, stepparents, other adults). We assess household income based on this.

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

3. Evidence you will need to provide

You will be required to upload clear, complete documents for all relevant adults in the household (except siblings) proving what money comes into the house i.e. into your bank account(s). Bursaries are calculated on net income i.e. the money that appears in your bank after tax, pension and national insurance, not your gross income (before tax).

Benefits / Universal Credit	Full UC statement **(All pages for the most recent three months – up to your application date)** or Letter dated within the last 3 months JSA/ESA/ Income Support/ Housing Benefit/Pension Credit (If not on UC)
Employment	Last 3 months payslips and/or latest P60
Self-Employment	Latest Self-Assessment and/or Accountant letter **(headed paper)**
Pensions	Pension statement
Vulnerable Group Evidence	Local Authority care letter: UC/IS in student name + tenancy contract; ESA+PIP/DLA+PIUP letters
Dividends/ Saving	Details of income from all other sources e.g., shares, investments, savings, rental income

4. What you may be eligible for:

- **4a. Free School Meals (If receiving Universal Credit)**

National transitional protection for free meals ends on 31st August 2026, therefore, for the 2026-27 academic year claimants for free school meals need to prove they are in receipt of Universal Credit regardless of Household income, you will be asked to upload your latest UC award notice / statement as proof of eligibility.

Exeter College uses a cashless system to allocate a £4.00 allowance to the student's ID card each timetabled day in college. It is an anonymous system. Unused amounts do not roll over.

- **4b. Exeter College Travel Scheme**

Band A - Free travel
Band B - £150.00 per term contribution (£450.00 per Academic year)
Band C - £35.00 per term contribution (£105.00 per Academic year)

- **4c. Essential Kit & Equipment**

(This will be ordered by the relevant faculty and information regarding this will be provided to you at your enrolment interview, you should not purchase any clothing or uniform yourself)

- **4d. Specialist clothing / uniform**

(This will be ordered by the relevant faculty and information regarding this will be provided to you at your enrolment interview, you should not purchase any clothing or uniform yourself)

- **4e. Essential trips and visits**

The bursary can cover the costs for trips and visits if this is an essential part of the course (All students doing the course must attend the trip or visit)

- **4f. Academy fees**

Will be paid directly to the relevant Faculty

5. Attendance and Behaviour Conditions

Bursary payments (including transport support) depend on satisfactory attendance and conduct. Our standard expectation is **85% attendance each term**.

If attendance drops, we may reduce, pause, or stop payments for that period. We will consider authorised absences and mitigating circumstances. You will be informed how any decision affects your payments and how to appeal.

6. Asylum Seekers

Accompanied asylum-seeking students can receive in-kind support (e.g. books, equipment, a travel pass). Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are treated as looked-after for bursary purposes and may be eligible for the vulnerable student assistance if there is financial need.

7. Care to Learn (childcare Support for Under-20s)

If you are under 20 and need help with childcare while you study, please complete the Care 2 Learn details following the link provided, and send this in with all your other Evidence. We will contact you with the outcome of your application.

8. How to Apply

1. **Complete the online bursary application form**

- **Returning Students** – to login you will need your Exeter College log in details (College Email and Password)
- **New Students** – enter your name and date of birth to sign in and you will then need to complete full student details, who lives in the household, details of all income (earned or otherwise) in the household, and what support you need).

2. **Upload required evidence** (see section 3). Use clear, complete pages and upload full statements where applicable.
3. **Sign the declaration** (student and parent/guardian if applicable) confirming you have completed information for all income received into the household. If living independently, put N/A for the parent signature.

9. What Happens Next

Your bursary application will be assessed by our Bursary team, if you application is received by the 7th August we will process your application and advise you of the outcome in time for the start of the Academic Year, any applications received after this date may not be processed in time for the start of the academic year, but we will aim to process and respond to your application within 15 - 20 working days.

We will email you to confirm receipt of your application and then a further email will be sent to you to confirm your eligibility and what and how much you are entitled to or to provide missing or further information.

Your application cannot be assessed until all the eligibility questions have been answered, and all evidence has been uploaded.

10. Your Commitments

- You will declare all adults in the household receiving income (earned or otherwise)
- You will upload all supporting documentation in a timely manner
- You will let us know if you have a change in circumstance which means that you are no longer eligible for your appointed bursary band
- You will complete a bursary application annually
- If your household has more than £50,000 in savings, you will not be eligible for a bursary

11. Our Commitments

- We assess each case individually and keep a record of evidence and rationale.
- We prefer to provide support in-kind where practical, you should not purchase items yourself.
- We do not make blanket or automatic awards
- Should you have a change in circumstances please let us know and we can re-appraise your bursary application. (evidence of any changes will be required)
- We review our approach to bursaries annually and publish this statement on our website
- You have a right to appeal any decision made by the College. Please email bursary@exe-coll.ac.uk, titling your email "Appeal" with the student's name and date of birth. Please ensure all evidence supporting your appeal is included in the email.

Vulnerable Bursary Fund

Eligibility for fund

- Aged 16-18 at the start of the Academic Year (on 31st August 2026)
- Enrolled on a further Education course

Please Note: if you are a 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 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 Full Universal Credit Statements) and additional documentation to confirm your independent status e.g., tenancy agreement, child benefit letter

What might I be eligible for?

If you meet the eligibility criteria, you may be entitled to a bursary of up to £1,200.00 (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.

Next of kin checklist

Below you will find a handy checklist to ensure that all stages of the bursary process are completed:

Student ID Number: (If known)	
Student Name:	
Student Date of Birth:	
Who the student lives with (List all adults in the Household (See Section 2)	
Evidence of household income uploaded for each adult listed (See Section 2)	
Vulnerable group evidence (if applicable) (See Section 3)	
Free School Meals - Receipt of Universal Credit – (Full UC Statement uploaded. (See Section 4a)	
Residency - (See Section 1)	
Declaration Signed (by Student and Parent/Guardian)	
Application Submitted before deadline	

Contact Us

For any help or assistance get in touch with the Bursary Team:

exe-coll.ac.uk

bursary@exe-coll.ac.uk

01392 400526