



The Park College

DISCRETIONARY (19-24) BURSARY FUND

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023- 2024

BURSARY POLICY – 19-24 YEAR OLDS

The Education and Skills Funding Agency has made a small allocation of bursary funds to the College to provide financial support to help students overcome specific barriers to participation, so they can remain in education.

Applications for discretionary bursary funds are open to students who are aged 19 to 24 on 31 August 2023. The funds can help with the costs of travel to College, uniform for work placements, books, equipment, field trips and community learning, where these areas relate to their study programmes.

All decisions about which students receive a discretionary bursary, and how much they receive, will be based on each student's individual circumstances and their actual financial need. These will vary from student to student, depending on, for example, their household income, the distance they need to travel to the institution and the requirements of their study programme. Students who meet the criteria are not automatically entitled to a bursary if they do not meet financial need or their needs are being met from another financial source. They may receive a lower amount of bursary or no bursary at all in these circumstances.

We will need to look at information that sets out your household income. We have set a threshold of £40,000 to be eligible for a discretionary bursary. This means that the total family household income must not exceed this amount. Please note that our policy is to maintain strict confidentiality in the review and storage of these documents.

Completed application forms, and supporting information, are considered by a panel to ensure that funds are allocated for those students who genuinely need them. A bursary will only be paid if attendance and behaviour meet our required standards.

Usually, the ESFA requires the College to carry out an annual financial eligibility check. However, if you enrolled with The Park College in 2022-23 and are continuing your education in 2023-24, we are allowed to exercise discretion on carrying out these checks again if your household circumstances remain unchanged. We will, however, require you to sign a declaration to confirm there are no changes.

If you are successful in receiving bursary funding it does not affect receipt of other means-tested benefits paid to families, such as Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Child Benefit, Working Tax Credit, Housing Benefit or, generally, Universal Credit.

If you require any further information, or have questions about how to complete your application, please contact the College. If you would prefer, you can request that an application form is posted to you or collected from the College.

There is also a guide for students (and parents) which can be found on the government's website as follows: <https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund>

All applications and full supporting evidence must be submitted to the College by Tuesday 31 October 2023. **Please note this is a strict deadline and extensions will not be given.**

A panel will consider applications during November and write to you with the outcome. If the panel's decision is to award a bursary, it will set out the amount and what it is proposed this will purchase.