

Further Education Financial Support for 2026-27

Tuition Fees

No tuition fees will be charged to further education students aged under 19 on 31st August in the year in which the student begins their course (with the exception of students from the Channel Islands and overseas countries). All students are expected to pay course fees.

Course Fees

All students will be expected to pay an annual course fee which includes educational visits & enrichment and studio materials. Course fees will be £180-£280 per academic year, how much you pay depends on which course you study.

16–19 Vulnerable Student Bursary

For students aged 16 or over but under 19 years old at 31st August 2026 and think may struggle with costs for full time education, may be eligible to receive a bursary. Students most in need will be eligible to receive a Vulnerable Student bursary of up to £1,200 a year, this group includes:

- Students in care
- Care leavers
- Young people claiming Income Support or Universal Credit because they are financially supporting themselves
- Disabled young people who receive Employment Support Allowance / Universal Credit **and** Disability Living Allowance / Personal Independence Payments

The support you receive depends on the costs you have and what you need for your course. This might include a travel pass, course fees or essential course materials.

Free Meals

For students aged 16 years or over but under 19 years old at 31st August 2026 from low-income families may be eligible for Free Meals. Students will be offered a voucher up to the value of £3.50 per day on the days you attend College. Vouchers can be used in the café at either the Folly Lane or College Road Campus. Free meals are targeted at students who are in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support under part V1 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided not entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190 as assessed by HMRC
- Universal Credit with net earnings not exceeding £7,400 pa

Transitional Protection – Students already receiving free meals on or after 1st April 2018, continue to be eligible to receive free meals until the end of the academic year 2025-26. From the start of the 2026-27 academic year, all recipients of Universal credit will be entitled to free meals and so these protection arrangements will cease from the start of the 2026-27 academic year.

Childcare

Students aged 16-19 years with childcare costs should apply to the Care2Learn scheme. For more information, please visit www.gov.uk/care-to-learn email c2l@studentbursarysupport.co.uk
Learners aged 20 years and over can apply to the College Hardship Fund.

Residential Bursary (16 – 18 Years old only)

This bursary is intended to provide financial assistance to learners who would otherwise be prevented from attending a further education course at Hereford College of Arts due to unreasonable daily travelling distance from home. The student's journey must take two hours or more, or, they must live in an area where public transport is not easily accessible to them. Most applicants will move to temporary, rented accommodation.

Priority will be given to students with a household income of below £25,000 and not all applications will be successful as the College has a limited amount of funding available.

For further information about accommodation, please contact our Student Housing Team, housing@hca.ac.uk.

16-19 Discretionary Bursary Fund

Other students aged 16 or over but under 19 years old at 31st August 2026 and are facing genuine financial difficulties can apply for a Discretionary Bursary for assistance with travel costs and or course related expenses.

Students living with parents / carers, who receive benefits and/or have a household income of £30,000 or less, may be eligible for support from this fund.

Please note that the 16-19 Discretionary Bursary Fund is limited and not all applications will be successful.

Students who want to apply for the 16-19 Vulnerable Student Bursary, Free Meals or the 16-19 Discretionary Fund will need to make an application and supply evidence of household income.

For more information, please visit www.direct.gov.uk/16-19bursary

Hardship Fund (Students Aged 19 Years or Over)

If you are aged 19 years or over, and are experiencing financial difficulties you can apply to the College Hardship Fund for assistance with travel and course related costs.

Not all applications will be successful as the College has a limited amount of funding available.

Advanced Learning Loans (Students Aged 19 and Over)

Students aged 19 years and over, studying a level 3 qualification (Diploma in Foundation or Extended Diploma) may be eligible to apply for an Advanced Learning Loan. These loans pay for tuition fees charged by the College and are available from the Student Loans Company. To qualify, household income is not considered and learners will not have to repay anything until they have left College and their income is above £25,000 per year. Applications can be made on line or by post.

For more information about Advanced Learning Loans, please visit:
www.direct.gov.uk/advancedlearningloans or www.moneyadvice.service.org

Advanced Learner Loans Bursary

Students who have taken an Advanced Learner Loan to pay for their tuition fees may be eligible to apply for an Advanced Learner Loan Bursary for assistance with travel costs and course related expenses.

Students will need to complete an application form and supply evidence of their income.

For further information about finance or to request an application form for any of the College bursaries, please contact Claire Boulter on (01432) 845354 or email funding@hca.ac.uk.

EMA for Students Resident in Wales

Depending on your household income, you could receive £40 a week. This is paid every 2 weeks, so you could receive £80 every fortnight.

The student must be aged 16–18 years on 31st August 2026 and has to have a permanent address in Wales before the start of their course to apply to the Welsh EMA. For more information or to download an application form, visit www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/ema.

For student's resident in Wales and in receipt of EMA, they will need to pay for their transport pass from their EMA.

Welsh Government Learning Grant FE

Welsh Government Learning Grant FE is for students aged 19 or over who are studying a course of Further Education at a college. If you are eligible, you could receive up to £1,919 a year. For more information or to download an application form, visit www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/wglgfe

This information provided is subject to change at any time. Please visit our website for up to date information at www.hca.ac.uk