

## EFA bursaries and other sources of financial support

### 1. Education Funding Agency (EFA) Student Bursaries

Students between the ages of 16 and 19 years may be eligible to receive a **16-19 bursary** from the EFA Student Bursary Support Service. The bursaries offer support to young people in one of the defined vulnerable groups (those who do not have access to parental support and those receiving certain benefits in their own right). It also enables institutions to make discretionary awards to those young people they assess as facing the greatest financial barriers to participation. Education institutions are responsible for managing both types of bursary.

There are 2 types of 16 to 19 bursaries:

- a vulnerable bursary of up to £1,200 a year for young people in one of the defined vulnerable groups; young people in care, care leavers, those on Income Support or receiving Universal Credit in place of Income Support, disabled young people (in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment)
- discretionary bursaries that institutions award to meet individual needs. For example, transport, meals, books and equipment

Young people in the defined vulnerable groups are **usually living apart from their parents/carers**, so they can get social security benefits in their own right. Total household income must not exceed £25,000 per annum, and they must have been resident in the UK for at least 3 years.

Institutions are responsible for verifying that young people meet the criteria for vulnerable student bursaries and they are applied for after enrolment (whereas ESCC transport is applied for up to 5 months in advance). Discretionary bursaries may be awarded if a student needs financial help but does not qualify for a vulnerable student bursary. The education or training provider decides how much is awarded and what it is used for.

Bursary payments are made directly into student bank accounts only.

### 2. Allocation of EFA bursary fund to ESCC colleges and sixth forms

To be eligible for an allocation of the 16 to 19 **discretionary** Bursary Fund, an institution must be publicly funded and subject to inspection by a public body that assures quality, such as Ofsted.

The institution must also be either:

- funded by Education Funding Agency directly or via a local authority
- funded or co-financed by the European Social Fund, or
- publicly funded and lead to a qualification (up to level 3) that is accredited by Ofqual or is pursuant to Section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000

As a result, 100% of East Sussex pupils attending an academy, maintained school sixth form or FE college would if eligible be able to apply to both the vulnerable student and discretionary part of the EFA bursary funding.

For most institutions, the bursary allocation for the 2015/2016 academic year was calculated on:

- the number of students that received £30 a week EMA in the 2009/2010 academic year, as a percentage of the 2010/2011 funded student numbers
- this percentage has been applied to institutions' 2015 to 2016 allocated student numbers and multiplied by the 2015 to 2016 standard funding rate of **£298**

For example: if the percentage is 40%, and there are 500 allocated student numbers in an institution, that would mean an allocation of 200 x £298.

Children's Services do not have access to the figures for EFA bursary allocation to FE colleges, academies with sixth forms and other vocational providers, but distribute the fund to East Sussex school sixth forms and special schools, whose 2015/16 allocations are shown below. The following schools receive the indicated amounts into their budgets and are then responsible for making decisions on which students will be supported, and by how much:

Name of establishment	16 - 19 Bursary Fund
Uckfield CTC	£25,083
Heathfield CC	£27,327
Uplands CC	£11,669
Grove Park	£4,638
The Lindfield	£500
Hazel Court	£3,623
<b>Total</b>	<b>£72,840</b>

### 3. SEND Students receiving travel support and EFA funding

As explained in Section 2, all 16-19 year old students attending maintained schools, academies and FE colleges will be able to apply, if eligible, to both the vulnerable student and discretionary part of the EFA bursary funding.

Also, students placed at independent and charitable schools by their local authorities, who meet the vulnerable student criteria are able to apply for an EFA vulnerable student bursary through the young person's home authority.

Of the 2014/15 cohort using ESCC SEND transport, 30 16-19 year olds were at independent or charitable institutions, mostly out of county, and would not be able to access the discretionary element of the EFA bursary fund. However, the vast majority of these young people are those with the most complex needs. Equivalent cases would therefore be likely to continue to be given ESCC transport under the revised policy, and would therefore have no need to apply for a bursary for travel costs.

The institutions (for the 2014/15 cohort) were:

- \*St Mary's Wrestwood, East Sussex
- \*Chailey Heritage, East Sussex
- \*Headstart School, East Sussex
- Broomhill Bank School, Kent
- \*RNIB New College, Worcestershire
- Northease Manor, East Sussex
- \*St John's College, Brighton
- \*Woodlands Mead, West Sussex
- Downs View Link College, Brighton
- \*Ingfield Manor School, Kent
- \*Valence School, Kent

*\*all asterisked schools are registered with the EFA to receive vulnerable student bursaries*

**4. Other sources of financial support for disadvantaged students include:**

- The national charity [Turn2Us](#) which has extensive information on benefits and grants for full-time students
- Grants for Individuals – many of which are targeted at young people with disabilities



Grants for  
Individuals.doc

- the Directory of Social Change (available in libraries)
- Other benefits claimed by the young person themselves, eg Employment Support Allowance (ESA) and Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

It should be noted that Disability Living Allowance claimed for a child or young person is not included in a low income assessment, i.e. a family can receive DLA funding above the standard low income threshold and still qualify as low income, as DLA is intended for the benefit of the child or young person.