

NEWCASTLE AND STAFFORD COLLEGES GROUP **STUDENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT GUIDANCE 2023/24**

Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group is pleased to be able to offer financial support to help students meet the costs of attending college. Please read this guidance for information about the types of support on offer. If you are aged 16-18 and received Free School Meals whilst at school you may still be eligible to receive this entitlement through one of the two bursary allowances outlined in the guidance below.

COLLEGE MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (CMA)

Who can apply?

- Anyone with a gross household income under £26,000 (excluding students enrolled on an apprenticeship, a self-financing course, a higher education (HE) course or students enrolled on a course with another education provider where funding is being claimed). If you received Free School Meals you may still be eligible to receive this entitlement at college.

How much will I receive?

- Bursary awards are based on individual circumstances. Please provide as much information about your circumstances in your application as possible. We will use the information provided in your application form to allocate bursary funds to best suit your needs.

How will I be paid?

- Bursary support is based on individual circumstances and will be allocated to best suit your individual needs.
- In some cases support may be paid directly into **your (the students)** bank account. Please request a bank details form if you do not receive one.
- If you do not have a bank account in your own name any agreed amounts will be paid onto your student ID card. No cash alternatives will be made.

What evidence will I need to provide?

- You will be required to provide evidence of all current household income.
- We may request up to date evidence at any point during the academic year.
- Please see Evidence Guidance document for more information.

Can I get help with other College related costs?

- Depending on your course you may be eligible for help towards the following college costs: Equipment, uniform, materials, compulsory trips, course fees (students aged 19+).
- Once you have received your bursary award from the Student Finance Team please provide your proof of purchase at your earliest opportunity following enrolling on **and** starting your course.
- If you are aged 19+ and not eligible for automatic fee remission, you may be able to receive help with course fees for level 1 & 2 courses through discretionary fee remission. Please ask the Student Finance Team for more details.

VULNERABLE STUDENT BURSARY (VSB)

(FOR STUDENTS AGED 16-18 ON 31ST AUGUST 2023)

Who can apply?

- Students who are in, or have recently left, local authority care.
- Students who are in receipt of Income Support or Universal Credit because you financially support yourself (the evidence must confirm that you are allowed to participate in further education or training)
- You are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments in your own right **as well as** Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit in your own right.

How much will i receive?

- Up to £1200 in total each academic year.
- You will receive most of your bursary through an allocation of up to £30 per week.
- Payments are attendance based and paid on specific dates throughout the year, as detailed in the payment schedule.

How will I be paid?

- Directly into **your (the students)** bank account.
- If you do not have a bank account in your own name the agreed amounts will be paid onto your student ID card.
- Once your application has been approved, you will receive a payment schedule.

What evidence will I need to provide?

- You will be required to provide a local authority care status letter/email or your current benefit evidence.

Can I get help with other college related costs?

- The remainder of your bursary will be allocated to meet your needs and the requirements of your course. This will be determined through one to one meetings with a Student Finance Advisor.

Please apply as early as possible, Government funding is limited. Fully completed applications will be processed in the order they are received by the Student Finance Team. No backdated support will be offered. The outcome of your application will be communicated to you via the email address you provided on your application form. If your application is unsuccessful an appeals process will be outlined to you. All appeals are considered and decided on by the Head of Finance.

If you need any help or assistance in relation to any of the above information, please do not hesitate to contact the Student Finance Team on 01782 254188 (Newcastle) 01785 275494 (Stafford) or by emailing studentfinanceteam@nscg.ac.uk. We are happy to give advice and guidance via email, over the telephone or to arrange appointments on a one to one basis.