



Vulnerable Young Person Bursary

If you're experiencing hardship, we may be able to offer financial support with essential course-related costs. All eligible students are entitled to support but the amount you may get depends on your individual circumstances. There is no guarantee of the full £1,200 as each application will be assessed according to financial need.

Support categories

We could help with:

- travel to college
- essential books, kit, and equipment
- specialist clothing/uniform
- Uni interviews and open days
- essential trips and visits
- DBS certification
- UCAS fees

Age eligibility

You must be aged 16-18 on 31 August 2025.

Course eligibility:

Your course must be:

- funded directly by the ESA
- funded by the local authority
- otherwise publicly funded and leading to a qualification accredited by Ofqual (up to and including Level 3) or on the approved list of qualifications
- a further education course or traineeship

Residency eligibility

To be eligible you must be:

- a British citizen who holds a United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland passport for an Irish citizen
- a European Union citizen or family member of EEA and Swiss workers (resident in the UK before 1 January 2021) with settled status
- a child of Turkish workers where the Turkish worker has been lawfully employed and resident in the UK before 1 January 2021
- a British Dependent Territory Citizen (now known as British Overseas Territory Citizen)

- in possession of a passport endorsed to show you have right of abode in the UK
- a certificate of naturalisation or registration as a British Citizen
- in possession of a Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) visa who has been given Home Office permission to reside in the UK.

Please refer to paragraph 38 to 40 of the funding guide for full listing:

Advice: funding regulations for post-16 provision 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Household income eligibility

You will normally be assessed on the income of those you live with, but to be defined as vulnerable, you must also be:

- in care
- a care leaver
- receiving Income Support (IS), or Universal Credit (UC) because you are financially supporting yourself and/or someone who is dependent on you and living with you, such as a child or partner
- receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payments (PIP) in your own right as well as Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) or UC in our own right.

The term '**in care**' refers to children:

- looked after by a local authority on a voluntary basis (section 20 of the Children Act 1989) or
- under a care order (section 31 of the Children Act 1989).

Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 defines the term 'looked after child'. A '**care**

leaver' is defined as:

- a young person aged 16-17 who was previously looked after for a period of 13 weeks consecutively (or periods amounting to 13 weeks), which began after the age of 14 and ended after the age of 16; or
- a young person aged 18 or above who was looked after prior to becoming 18 for a period of 13 weeks consecutively (or periods amounting to 13 weeks), which began after the age of 14 and ended after the age of 16.

Residency

Here's what you might be eligible for, following the assessment of your household income:

Care status	Household income evidence	Support
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In care • 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 and/or someone who is dependent on you and living with you, such as a child or partner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written confirmation of your current or previous looked after status from the relevant local authority – <i>must be on corporate letterheaded paper and signed or sent by email from the local authority.</i> <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of benefit award notice (such as DWP letter or Universal Credit statements) and additional documentation to confirm independent status, like a tenancy agreement or child benefit letter – <i>which must be in your name and address.</i> 	<p>Up to £1,200 for full-time students.</p> <p>This will be awarded on a pro-rata basis for students studying less than 16 hours or less than 3 days a week.</p>
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Documents provided must be for the student at their home address.

You're not eligible if you're:

- 16-18 and classed as an overseas student
- 16-18 and enrolled on an HE qualification
- 16-18 and enrolled on an apprenticeship or T Levels
- 19 or over
- a 19+ continuer or 19+ and have an EHCP.

Care to Learn

If you have a child and need childcare while you study, Care to Learn can help with childcare costs, travel expenses to and from the childcare provider and a retainer deposit where required. More information is available here: [Care to Learn: Overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Still need help?

For further information regarding the 16-19 Bursary Fund and how to apply, please visit www.copc.ac.uk/financial-support or contact our friendly and knowledgeable finance support team.

Telephone: **023 9421 1980**

Email: bursary@copc.ac.uk