



SFC Guidance

National policy for further education bursaries: 2019-20

Issue date: 3 June 2019

Reference: SFC/GD/09/2019

Summary: This policy provides an explanation of the conditions for use of college bursary funds.

FAO: Principals and Finance Directors of Scotland's colleges

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National policy for further education bursaries: 2019-20

Introduction and updates for AY 2019-20

1. This national policy supports the strategic priorities and outcomes of the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and the Scottish Government.
2. The policy stipulates the conditions of use of bursary funds allocated to colleges by SFC and sets out the rates for calculation for Academic Year (AY) 2019-20.
3. Student support funds are cash-limited. Students who are eligible for support from this fund are not automatically entitled to this support.

Changes to 2019-20 policy

4. The updates to the paragraphs and relevant sections of the guidance are set out in the Annexes to this announcement. The main changes are:
 - **18/19 year old students to be assessed for bursary**
Colleges are required to assess 18 and 19 year old students at the start of their courses for bursary, unless it is better for their household for them to be awarded an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).
 - **Increase in bursary maintenance rate**
As a second phase of the recent independent review of student support, the annual bursary maintenance rate has been increased to a maximum of £4,500. Split over 43 weeks, this provides a new maximum weekly award of £104.65.
 - **Transfer between funds**
As SFC is no longer distributing the student support allocations into different categories (bursary/childcare/discretionary), but rather working on this in agreement with the colleges, the guidance has been updated to reflect that there is no longer any requirement for colleges to request formal virements between funds.

Further information

5. Please contact Jane Scott, Funding Policy Officer, tel: 0131 313 6660, email: jscott@sfc.ac.uk.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martin Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Martin Smith

Chief Funding & Information Officer

Annex: Summary of updates to FE Bursary Guidance for AY 2019-20

Fund Management & Audit Information document		
Subject	Paragraph number(s)	Change to policy
Fund Management	18	The overall bursary rate for AY 2019-20 is now an annual award of £4,500 being split over 43 weeks, giving a new maximum weekly award of £104.65.
Fund Management	19	Colleges are required to assess 18 and 19 year old students at the start of their courses for bursary, unless it is better for their household for them to be awarded an EMA.
Data Protection Legislation	56	Update to include the EU General Data Protection Regulation and Data protection Act 2018.

Award Assessment document		
Subject	Paragraph number(s)	Change to policy
Eligibility for Award	2	Colleges are required to assess 18 and 19 year old students at the start of their courses for bursary, unless it is better for their household for them to be awarded an EMA.
Care Experienced Bursary	54-58 & Annex C	Updated information relating to the assessment of Care Experienced Bursary including the addition at Annex C of the list of categories of Care Experience.
Students receiving Universal Credit	61	Additional note relating to the payment of the £28 maintenance award may mitigate the need for the student to have any Work Related Requirement whilst studying.
FE Student Support Rates 2019-20	Annex A	Figures updated to reflect increase in bursary rate and confirm Care Experienced bursary rate for 2019-20
Study Costs – Average Sector Spend	Annex B	Figures updated to include 2017-18.
Study Costs – Average Sector Spend by Subject	Annex B	Figures updated to reflect the three year period AY 2015-16 – 2017-18.

Advisors' Notes document		
Subject	Paragraph number(s)	Change to policy
Legislation and categories of care which are not eligible for Care Experience assessment	12	Provides details of some groups of legislation and categories of care which are not eligible for the Care Experienced Bursary assessment.
Foster Care Allowances	29-31	Update on Foster Care Allowances advising of the consultation undertaken by Scottish Government in 2018 and providing a link to the Fostering Network news.
Full-time course: SFC definition for measuring activity	33	References the SFC Credit Guidance for AY 2019-20.