

Financial support checklist

There are various ways that you may be entitled to financial help while you are studying at West Thames College.

All payments are made subject to 90% attendance (the college expects 100% attendance).

For students under 19

Vulnerable Bursary

For students who are aged 16-18 on 31 August 2019 and either:

- In care or leaving care (social services) *or*
- Receiving Income Support or Universal Credits and **living independently** *or*
- On Employment and Support Allowance *with* Disability Living Allowance/Personal Independence Payments.

Discretionary Bursary

For students who are aged 16-18 on 31 August 2019 *or* **aged 19-23 with an EHCP in place** and either:

- You or your parents/guardians are in receipt of benefits* *or*
- Have a family income of not more than £25,000.

* *If on Universal Credit, your family income must be less than £25,000.*

For students over 19

Discretionary Learner Support (DLS)

To be eligible for DLS, *all* of the following must apply:

- You are aged 19-23 on an FE course up to and including Level 3, *or* aged 24+ on an FE course up to and including Level 2, *and*
- You are in receipt of benefits, *and*
- You have a family income of not more than £25,000.

Loan Bursary

To be eligible, you must be aged 19+ and:

- Be studying on a course at Level 3 or higher, *and*
- Be in receipt of the Advanced Learner Loan or have had your Loan approved by the Student Loans Company, *and*
- Be in receipt of benefits*, *and*
- Have a family income of not more than £25,000.

* *If on Universal Credit, your family income must be less than £25,000.*

Free meals at college

Please see the Free College Meals posters or Moodle for eligibility.

For more information

Please see the *Student Guide to Financial Support* booklet, the college website or Moodle, or contact:

Sanjeevani Seneviratne
Welfare and Support Adviser
studentwelfare@west-thames.ac.uk
020 8326 2412

Evidence you need to bring for your application

We must see ONE of the following due to government regulations:

- Passport
- Birth certificate
- EU ID card
- Home Office biometric card.

Also bring your bank details in order to receive payments:

- Account number and sort code

Bring TWO or more from the list below as evidence of income and/or benefits:

If you or your parents/guardians receive income support:

- Last 3 months' bank statements *and*
- Income support letter

If you or your parents/guardians receive Job Seekers Allowance:

- Last 3 months' bank statements *and*
- JSA letter

If you or your parents/guardians receive Employment and Support Allowance:

- Last 3 months' bank statements *and*
- ESA letter

If you or your parents/guardians are currently working:

- Last 3 months' payslips (last 6 weeks if paid weekly) *and*
- Tax Credits Award Letter for 2019-20 (pages 1-4)

If you or your parents/guardians are self-employed:

- Tax Credits Award Letter for 2019-20 (pages 1-4) *or*
- P60 *or*
- End of Year accounts *and*
- Recent bank statements
- Self-employment declaration

If you or your parents/guardians receive pension guarantee credit:

- Pension letter 2019 *and*
- Most recent bank statement showing pension credit

If you or your parents/guardians receive Universal Credit:

- Recent Universal Credit printout showing the breakdown *and*
- Recent bank statements
- Housing benefit letter

PLEASE NOTE If you are aged 19+, you must also provide your bank statements along with any other evidence.