

19+ FINANCIAL SUPPORT FACT SHEET

FOR FURTHER EDUCATION COURSES 2011:12

FEES

All Students aged 19 years and over on 1 September are expected to pay for tuition, registration/exam fees and all other course related costs. Assistance with these costs may be available if you are taking an eligible course.

For a list of courses funded by the Skills Funding Agency, please refer to the College Adult Course Directory.

FEE REMISSION

Fee Remission is available for students 19 years of age or over that are enrolled on eligible courses and who are receipt of either Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA IR). Students who are eligible for Fee Remission will not need to pay tuition fees, however you will be required to pay for any exam/material costs.

LEVEL 1, 2 AND 3 ENTITLEMENT

Level 1

New Government legislation has stated that:

"Entry or Level 1 aims will be fully funded where the learner has an entitlement to a Level 2 qualification, and where they need a step up from basic skills in order to progress to Level 2. Learners can be enrolled on either Entry or Level 1 aims. The provider should be sure that the learner needs the additional step in order to progress to Level 2. Full funding for a learning aim(s) will not include repeat qualifications at the same level, for example, where there is no progression, unless it is part of a complementary personalised program of learning. In 2011/12 only this entitlement will be available to all ages."

Level 2

If you are over 19 and studying your first full Level 2 qualification, that is Skills Funding Agency funded, you may be eligible for free tuition fees, however you will be required to pay for any exam/material costs.

Level 2 qualifications are equivalent to five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C or NVQ Level 2.

Level 3

If you are aged between 19-24 and studying your first full Level 3 qualification that is Skills Funding Agency funded you may be eligible for free tuition fees, however you will be required to pay for any exam/material costs.

Level 3 qualifications are equivalent to two A Levels or NVQ Level 3.

Note: If you are aged over 24 you may still be eligible for Level 3 Entitlement if you do not already hold a qualification higher than Level 1 and your course is not available at Level 2 or this is deemed as the appropriate route of study for you.

ADULT LEARNING GRANT (ALG)

This is a payment of £10, £20 or £30 per week during term time for students over the age of 19 that are studying in full-time education. You must have 100% attendance every week to receive payments.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR ALG?

In order to be eligible to apply you need to be:

- Enrolled on your first full Level 2 or 3 course (see above for Level 2 or 3 qualifications)
- Aged 19 or over (at the start of the academic year)
- Settled or ordinarily resident in the UK for 3 years prior to the start of your course
- On a low household income (less than £19,513 if you are single or £30,810 if you have a partner)
- Not in receipt of 'out of work benefits'
- Taking a full time Skills Funding Agency funded course that is at least 12 hours per week (450 hours per year).

From August 2011 the Adult Learning Grant (ALG) budget will be combined with discretionary learner support, and allocated directly to colleges and training providers for them to distribute to those learners most in need. No current learners receiving ALG, and whose courses are continuing will lose out, as they will continue to receive payments during 2011/12. The total adult learner support budget will rise through the Spending Review period.

Existing ALG recipients will receive a Notice of Entitlement (NoE) for 2011/12. Learners who will be continuing on their course in 2011/12 will need to take this to their learning provider to continue to receive weekly payments from the Learner Support Service.

CARE TO LEARN

If you are a young parent, Care to Learn can help you pay for your childcare and travel costs while you're studying a Skills Funding Agency Further Education course.

WHAT WILL CARE TO LEARN PAY FOR?

- Childcare costs while you learn, including while you are on placement
- A childcare deposit (up to £250) if one is charged
- Any necessary childcare fees payable during the holidays to retain your child's place
- Necessary travel costs to and from your childcare provider.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE CARE TO LEARN SCHEME?

In order to apply for the Care to Learn scheme you need to be:

- A parent under 20 at the start of your college course
- Caring for your own children (whether you are a father or a mother)
- Living in England
- Using a registered childcare provider.

To apply for the Care to Learn scheme visit:

www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/14To19/MoneyToLearn/Caretolearn

PROFESSIONAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT LOAN

A Career Development Loan is a bank loan designed to help you pay for work-related learning. You don't have to start paying your loan back until one month after you stop your training.

Where can I get a Professional and Career development loan and how much can I get?

You can apply to borrow anything between £300 to £10,000 to help you fund up to two years of learning (or up to three years if the course includes one year of relevant practical work experience)

Further details can be found at www.direct.gov.uk or Tel: 0800 100 900 to speak to an advisor.

ACCOMMODATION AND THE RESIDENTIAL BURSARY SCHEME

The College has places available to live on-site at Merrist Wood College and we also offer a Residential Bursary Scheme to assist students with their accommodation costs.

In order to be eligible for the Residential Bursary you need to be:

- Studying on your first eligible full-time Level 2 or 3 vocational course
- Ordinarily resident in England for 3 years prior to the start of your course
- Unable to find a similar course locally to your home (within reasonable travelling distance)
- On a course that is funded by the Skills Funding Agency.

If you would like further details about the Merrist Wood Halls of Residence call the Accommodation office:

Tel: 01483 88 40 93 or visit our website **www.merristwood.ac.uk**

EXTRAS AVAILABLE TO ALL STUDENTS

- NUS cards which gives you discounts for all your favorite shops, organizations and events with NUS membership.
- Reduced membership fees for the ActivZone Gym at Guildford College
- Rock bottom prices for haircuts, styles and beauty treatments at Guildford and Farnham Colleges

- Financial rewards for students helping out at Open Days and other College events
- Free print allocation of £10 per term
- Free student parking available.

Please note correct as at May 2011:

- *Subject to change due to College and Government funding initiatives*
 - *Limitations may apply and subject to availability*