

TyneMet/QA Support Funding 2015/16

Young Peoples Guide to Financial Support

The College receives money from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) to provide discretionary support to students facing financial hardship. The support is allocated to those students with specific financial need that could prevent them from studying.

Who's eligible?

- Any student attending full or part time Further Education funded courses can apply. It is intended for expenses not covered by other sources.
- All applications are means tested.
- If your household income, including benefits is £25,000 or below you may be eligible for support.
- If your income exceeds £25,000 and you can show you are in financial hardship which could impact on your attendance at college, please complete the TyneMet/QA Support Funding application form. You will need to provide a covering letter explaining your circumstances and supporting evidence along with the application form. This will be assessed by the Appeals Panel.

What can you receive financial support for?

If you are eligible, you can receive help with:

- Travel
- Lunches
- Essential course related equipment, materials, trips etc.(without which you could not complete your course)
- Financial hardship and emergencies

Types of Support Available:

Vulnerable Bursary – 16 to 18yrs

Students are entitled to apply for a Vulnerable Bursary if they are:

- Young people in care, including unaccompanied asylum seeking children
- Young care leavers
- Young people getting Income Support or the equivalent Universal Credit in their own right
- Young people getting both Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or the new Personal Independence Payments (PIP) and Employment Support Allowance (ESA) (or Universal Credit in replacement of ESA in their own right)

Child Care

Students up to the age of 20 are able to apply for Childcare funding through the Care to Learn Scheme. Information relating to the scheme is available at <https://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn/overview>

Lunches (including 16-18 Free School Meals)

Full time students under the age of 19 years at 31st August 2015 may be entitled to lunch support if they have a household income of less than £25,000. This may be in the form of a lunch card, depending upon place of study.

Travel

Students can apply for financial assistance towards travel. Applications will be means tested and students must live more than 3 miles from College in order to be eligible. You are required to provide evidence of the cost for a return journey should you be travelling on public transport. Should you drive yourself to college you will be required to provide vehicle insurance documentation. In your name or with you as a named driver. **Are you under 19 as at 31st August 2015 and live more than 3 miles from College?**

- If you live in North Tyneside – contact North Tyneside Council on 0191 643 8753 for a Travel application form. You may receive 50% support from the council towards your travel. If you provide evidence that you will be supported by North Tyneside Council for 50% of your travel the College will support you with up to 50% of the remaining cost.
- If you live in Northumberland and have a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education Health Care Plan, contact Northumberland Council on 0845 600 6400 or www.northumberland.gov.uk and go to the Post 16 Transport for further advice.
- If you live outside of North Tyneside or not entitled to travel support from any other source, please complete a TyneMet/QA Support Funding application form.

Where possible, learners who are given travel support will be issued with a Network One Travel pass. If you are awarded a travel pass you will be required to pay a £30 contribution per term and also provide a passport photograph. The college WILL NOT issue a replacement or take any responsibility for lost tickets (see additional leaflets issued with your pass) therefore students are strongly advised to insure their travel tickets with Network Ticketing

Resources

All students are entitled to apply for help with essential costs related to their programme of study, as identified by the curriculum departments i.e. kits, uniforms etc without which they would not be able to complete their course. Successful learners will receive 50% towards the cost of this equipment/kit. All students are entitled to apply for help with trips that are part of their programme of study, and University visits (maximum of 3 visits) or interviews.

Emergency Payments

In cases of exceptional hardship, or where emergency help is required, support may be arranged by the Student Finance Advisor to reflect the individual needs of the student. In these circumstances please call into the Gateway for further assistance.

Getting Support

If you are successful with your TyneMet/QA Support Fund application you will be informed in writing as to when your support will commence. No support will be awarded until after the October half term for kits and course resources. Where possible awards will be made in kind, for example, lunch card, travel pass etc.

Application Forms

You can pick up a TyneMet/QA Support Funding application form from The Gateway at either Coast Road Campus or Queen Alexandra Campus or Reception at TMC.

Conditions of Payment

The fund aims to promote the good attendance, achievement and behaviour of students on courses. An award will not be made until the student is enrolled and is attending his/her course.

The College reserves the right to cancel any TyneMet/QA Support Funding payment(s) if the student's attendance falls below 90% or if the student's academic achievement or behaviour falls below an acceptable standard.

Any change in circumstances and/or change of address must be notified to The Gateway as soon as possible or payment(s) may be withheld.

The College receives limited funding and therefore all support is subject to funding being available. The College prioritises travel and lunch support over other types of support available.

Do you require further information?

Please go to The Gateway at the Coast Road Campus or Queen Alexandra Campus or Reception at TMC to talk to a Student Advisor. If you need to discuss your financial circumstances in more detail, contact the Gateway on (0191) 229 5000, option 2 – one to one appointments can be made with a Student Finance Advisor if required.