

Financial Incentives 2020-2021

Going to college is more achievable than you think with financial support available to many students. The following schemes are available to assist you:

Welsh Government Learning Grant for Further Education (Previously known as Assembly Learning Grant)

You can apply for a Welsh Government Learning Grant for Further Education (WGLGFE) of up to £1500 to help with the cost of studying. You may be eligible for a WGLGFE if:

- You are aged 19 or over on 1 September 2020
- Your household income is £18,370 or less
- You meet the residence and nationality rules set out for the WGLGFE
- You are attending an approved full time (15 hours per week) or part time (8 hours per week). This must involve at least 275 hours of study.
- You are studying a Further Education Course
- You are not receiving funding for your course from another source

Applications forms are available from May online at www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/wglgfe or you can ring 0300 200 40 50

Educational Maintenance Allowance

You can apply for an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) of £30 a week (paid fortnightly) if you decide to study at college. You may be eligible for EMA if:

- You are aged 16,17 or 18 years of age on the 1st September 2020
- You meet the residence and nationality rules set out for the EMA
- You attend an eligible course at a school or college which involves at least 12 hours or more study per week
- Live in a household that has an annual income of £20,817 or less per year (£23,077 if more than one young person in household)

Applications forms are from May online at www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/ema or you can ring 0300 200 40 50

Financial Contingency Fund

Due to uncertainty regarding Welsh Government Funding we hope by the start of the Academic Year that we can provide help through the FCF fund. The Financial Contingency Fund (FCF) is a means tested grant for students who are experiencing financial hardship. Students can be assisted with childcare costs, college excursions, books, equipment, transport and examination / registration fees.

You are eligible to apply whether you are on a full or part-time course and all applications are considered on an individual basis. This fund is means-tested and depends on your financial hardship and personal circumstances. Evidence must be provided. The application forms can be accessed from the Cash Office when students enrol or start their course.

How can FCF help me?

	Full Time Learner (12+ hrs. a week)		In care / care leaver	Part Time Learner
	Under 19	Over 19	All ages	All ages
Travel Costs	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Childcare Costs	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Equipment costs	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Meal Vouchers	Yes	No (except in special cases)	Yes	No
Exam / Registration Fees	No	No	Yes	Yes

Free Meals

Students must be 18 or under on the 1st September 2020 and on a full time course. The students will receive £3.20 every day on their student card everyday which must be spent on meals. Students or parent(s) of student must be in receipt of State Benefits. Students can apply for Free Meals through the FCF application form. Evidence must be provided.

Transport

All students aged 16, 17 or 18 years on September 1st 2020, who are attending full time course at the college, live in the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough and reside three miles or more from the college, will be eligible for free transport. Application forms for Merthyr Transport will be available in the Cash Office when the student enrol or start their course.

For those students attending the college who reside outside of the County Borough will need to contact your home local authority to determine the transport arrangements that apply from that area.

Contact details for local authorities are as follows:

M.T.C.B.C

Tel: 01685 726256

Powys

Tel: 01597 826477

Web: www.powys.gov.uk

R.C.T

Tel: 01443 494853

Web: www.rctcbc.gov.uk

Caerphilly C.B.C.

Tel: 01443 864841

Web: www.caerphilly.gov.uk

Blaenau Gwent

Tel: 01495 355435

Web: www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

If students are refused transport by their local authority, students can provide evidence of rejection and the College will reimburse travel.

Students 19 and over will have to find the own way to college and reclaim their travel expenses. This fund is means-tested and depends on your financial hardship and personal circumstances. This can be accessed through the FCF application form. Evidence must be provided.

A refund of travel expenses can be paid in respect of:-

- Cost of bus or train to and from college – students must use the cheapest form of transport (receipts must be provided and will be paid weekly in arrears)
- A mileage allowance of 13p per mile (will be paid weekly in arrears)

For further information please contact:

- Gillian Harris – g.harris2@merthyr.ac.uk
- Gavin Edwards – g.edwards@merthyr.ac.uk

Please note that all information was correct at the time of print but may be subject to change.



Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
Welsh Government