

Higher Education Bursary and Hardship Fund:

Frequently Asked Questions

Q) What is the Higher Education bursary?

The purpose of the Higher Education Bursary is to:

- Help students overcome financial barriers to access higher education
- Promote a positive attitude to learning

Students who receive the bursary may use it to help pay for travel costs or buy essential equipment for their course. Students must apply for the maximum level of student finance available to them in order to be considered for a bursary. Please note that not everyone who applies will be eligible.

Q) Will I be eligible for the bursary?

If you are studying on a Higher Education course and your household income is below £25,000 per year, you should be eligible for bursary funding. HE Bursaries are assessed based on the information provided by Student Finance England (SFE). Both the student and their sponsor(s) will need to give consent to share information with the college when completing their student finance application in order to be assessed. If we are unable to verify household income through Student Finance England, we will require additional evidence.

Q) How do I apply for a bursary?

All students must complete an application form in each new academic year. The link to the application form will be available via Microsoft Teams in the HE Essentials group when your course has started. HE Bursary applications are processed in November.

Q) I had a bursary last year. Do I need to apply again?

Yes. You must submit a new bursary application for each academic year and funding is not guaranteed. You will need to provide up-to-date income/benefits evidence to support your application if we are unable to verify your household income through SFE.

Q) What might I get?

If eligible, full-time students will receive £600 and part-time students will receive £300. This payment is usually made in two instalments, one in the first term and the second around Easter.

Q) I've been asked to provide evidence of my household income. What do I need to provide?

The evidence that you need to provide will depend on who you live with and what income/benefits the household receives. We can accept:

- Payslips dated in the last 3 months
- P60 from the most recent tax year
- A full recent Universal Credit statement: This needs to show the claimant's name, address, entitlements and deductions (if any).
- Tax Credit award notice for the current year
- A recent Benefit Award letter
- Accounts for self-employment for the most recent tax year

If you are still unsure of what to provide, please see our HE Bursary income evidence guide at www.yorkcollege.ac.uk/bursary

Q) What is the Higher Education Hardship Fund?

The HE Hardship Fund can provide additional support to students who experience unexpected financial difficulty during their course. Funding is limited and applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis. Students wanting to apply would need to speak to the Funding Team in the first instance to determine if an application would be appropriate.

Q) I'm unhappy with the decision that's been made regarding my bursary/hardship application. Can I appeal?

All applicants have the right of appeal. Students who wish to appeal will need to write to the Director of Student Experience, clearly stating the reasons for appeal and giving any additional details they think should be taken into consideration and include evidence.