

Financial Support for Students aged 19+

This guide explains the eligibility criteria to be able to receive support from **the 19+ hardship fund** and **Care to Learn grants**.

For all Discretionary Bursary Funds, meeting the criteria does not guarantee funding. Due to their limited nature, **Discretionary Bursaries** are income-assessed and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

All bursaries are provided to support you in completing your course by helping you to overcome financial barriers. Therefore, all bursaries are linked to attendance and punctuality of your course.

You must attend all lessons on time. The college reserves the right to not make a payment/provide support if your weekly Percentage of Learning (POL – Attendance and Punctuality) drops below **85%**.

19+ Discretionary Bursary

To be eligible for the 19+ Discretionary Bursary, you will be at least **19 or over** on the 31st of August (at the start of the academic year) and able to evidence a gross household income of **less than £35,000 per annum**.

If eligible, you may be awarded*:

Travel	Up to £16 per week (based on individual assessment)
Books/Equipment	Up to 50% of the total cost
Childcare	Up to £50 per week towards costs [must be an Ofsted registered provider] C2L grant if eligible
Exam fees	100% of exam fees
Registration Fees	50% of registration fees
ICT support	For online learning and based on individual assessment

*The support is subject to the availability of funds. This is regularly reviewed by the college. The college reserves the right to change the support provided by informing you of a minimum of two working weeks before the change.

It is the responsibility of the applicant [you the student] to **inform the Department of Work and Pensions [DWP]** about any learner support you receive, as this may affect your eligibility for some state benefits.

Childcare

Students who are parents, **aged under 20** on the 31st of August 2025 with childcare needs may apply for additional childcare support through the bursary.

You can get a 'Care to Learn' grant if **all of the following** apply to you:

- You're a parent under 20 at the start of your course
- You're the main carer for your child
- You live in England
- You're either a British citizen or have a legal right to live and study in England
- Your course qualifies
- Your childcare provider qualifies
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What you'll get

You can get up to:

- £180 per child per week if you live outside London
- £195 per child per week if you live in London

What it covers

Care to Learn can help with the cost of:

- your childcare, including deposit and registration fees
- a childcare taster session for up to 5 days
- keeping your childcare place over the summer holidays
- taking your child to your childcare provider

How to apply

Apply for the Care to Learn scheme through Stanmore College. We will inform you if you and your chosen childcare provider are eligible.

When you apply, you must give your education provider either:

- A copy of the child's birth certificate
- A letter confirming receipt of Child Benefit for that child

Eligible evidence required: You will need to provide this on application.

Universal Credit:	Log onto Universal Credit Online and search for the last 3 payments . Evidence must show breakdown of costs. You must also supply the bank statements for the last 90 Days.
Tax Credits:	Tax Credit Notice (TGO2) For the year 2025/26 ALL PAGES NEEDED (4-6 pages normally) Tax Credit Award Notice. This statement must show the benefit being received. (Showing an income of less than £24,000 per annum) You will need to evidence payments into your bank account.
Income Support	A Letter from the Job Centre dated within the last 3 months, along with bank statements showing the Income Support still being received for the LAST 60 Days.
Jobseekers Allowance (Income based):	A Letter from the Job Centre dated within the last 3 months, along with bank statements showing the Job Seekers Allowance still being received for the LAST 60 Days.
Employment Support Allowance:	A Letter from the Job Centre dated within the last 3 months, along with bank statements showing the Employment and Support Allowance still being received for the LAST 60 Days.
Free School (college) Meals	A letter from the Local Authority confirming that you are eligible for free school meals for 2024/25. Students who were receiving free school meals in the previous academic year are protected until March 2025. You need to provide evidence from the previous institution that you were in receipt of free school meals.
Pension Credit (Guaranteed Element):	Parent(s) in receipt of Pension Credit. Letter from DWP dated within the last 3 Months. You MUST also show a bank statement showing payment being received for the last 90 DAYS.
PIP (Personal independent payment)	Personal Independence Payment letter dated 25/26. You MUST also show a bank statement showing payment being received for the last 3 months.
Self-Employment	Last year's Tax calculations along with bank statements for the past 3 months.