YOUR GUIDE TO FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Peterborough College

Stamford College

2026-27

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Enrolling on a College course can be expensive, therefore before you enrol on a course, consideration should be given to costs such as travel, equipment, uniform, and other materials.

Peterborough College and Stamford College will endeavour to provide financial support to those students who face the greatest barriers to continuing with their education. The College fund has two elements:

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BURSARY FOR VULNERABLE STUDENTS (MUST BE UNDER 19 ON 31 AUGUST 2026)

- Young people in care.
- Care leavers.
- Students in receipt of Disability Living Allowance and either Employment Support Allowance or Universal Credit in their own name.
- Students in receipt of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) in their own name and either ESA or Universal Credit.
- Students in receipt of Universal Credit in their own name, as they are financially supporting themselves or financially supporting other dependants living with them, such as a partner or child.

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DISCRETIONARY FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The College will further use its discretion to make financial support awards to students with a total household income of less than £35,000 - please refer to ‘Criteria of Fund’ on page 6.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT AWARDS CAN HELP TOWARDS:

- Home to College transport. Public bus must be over 2 miles distance from College.
- Compulsory course uniform, equipment and trips.
- Free College Meals.
- Transport for T Level and mandatory Work Experience placements.
- Childcare.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Students who are aged 16 or over on 31 August 2026 and enrolled on a course at Peterborough or Stamford College.

The fund is means-tested and based on your household income and financial need, and is calculated using any benefit income in addition to take home pay (wages or P60). If the household annual income is below £35,000pa you could be eligible for financial support from the discretionary financial support fund.

WHAT CAN YOU APPLY FOR?

TRANSPORT
Financial help towards public transport costs will be paid directly to the supplier where possible. You may be expected to contribute towards these costs.

COMPULSORY EQUIPMENT, UNIFORM & TRIPS
Financial help towards the cost of compulsory equipment, uniform and trips is available for eligible students on courses where required.

One uniform/kit set per student will be assessed for financial support (compulsory items only and not optional items). All non-compulsory uniform, College trips and kit will need to be purchased at your own expense.

CHILDCARE
Students applying for financial support for childcare must complete a Childcare Application Form. If eligible, a student could be entitled to a maximum amount of £180 per week, per child, during term time. Any Early Years funding must be used before contribution is made by the College.

Payments will only be made on timetabled days during term time, and directly to childcare providers.

FREE COLLEGE MEALS
Money is automatically loaded onto your ID badge to use within the College's food outlets.

If you, your partner or parents are in receipt of any of the following benefits, you may be eligible:

- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA).
- Support under part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of the State Pension Credit.
- Universal Credit.
- 19-24 years in receipt of an EHCP AND one of the criteria above.

HOW DO YOU APPLY?

Applications for Financial Support are submitted through our online application portal which you will be sent a link to over the summer. Here you can apply for the financial assistance you need and upload your household income evidence all at the same time.

We aim to assess applications within 21 working days, but this may take longer during busy periods, so please be patient. Failure to submit a fully completed form or with insufficient evidence will delay your application, so there is a handy user guide in the application portal to help you if needed.

If you have a query, please email:

Peterborough College:
info@peterborough.ac.uk

Stamford College:
info@stamford.ac.uk

We will be happy to help.

HOW MUCH WILL I GET?
Our Student Recruitment team will assess whether you are eligible to receive support based on the evidence you provide, and, if so, how much you will receive dependent on your personal circumstances and the criteria of the fund. Although we do our best, we cannot guarantee support to all applicants, so it is best to apply as soon as possible.

HOW IS THE AWARD PAID?
In most circumstances, payments will be made directly to suppliers, so public service bus passes and compulsory equipment will be purchased for you.

You can purchase compulsory items in advance, then be refunded once eligibility and financial need is confirmed. All the information will be included in your bursary award notification.



Visit our websites for a step-by-step guide on how to make your application.

CRITERIA OF FUND

- Should you leave before the completion of your course, you may be required to repay all or part of your award OR return equipment and uniform.
- You will be expected to cover the cost of travel until the financial support is awarded and will also be expected to contribute towards the cost of some of these items, even if you are awarded financial support.
- Only compulsory College trips, uniform and equipment are covered by this fund.
- Each application will be assessed and if funds are available, financial support will be allocated, subject to meeting minimum College criteria
- Please be aware that you might get a different level of support to other students who are on the same course, as support awards are individualised based on eligibility and financial need.

Household income below £35,000

- 100% compulsory equipment
- 100% compulsory uniform
- 100% for a College Bus or up to a maximum of £750 for a public bus when living more than 2 miles walking distance from College
- 100% compulsory trips
- Free College Meals
- Childcare support for 20+ year olds
- Childcare support from 'Care to Learn' for under 20 year olds
- Support with mandatory industry placements (T Levels) on request

Please note: *If your household income is above £35,000, you will pay £750 for the College bus.*

APPEALS PROCESS

Should you wish to appeal the decision, please email us within 10 working days from the date of notification:

Peterborough College: *info@peterborough.ac.uk*

Stamford College: *info@stamford.ac.uk*

FAQS

If I received financial support last year, do I have to apply again this year?

Yes. The reason for this is so that we can assess the actual, and current, financial needs of each student, which, for most students, will change year-on-year.

Are any bursary funds automatically awarded?

No. All bursary applications will be subject to a financial assessment to evaluate the financial support needs of each student. Every student needs to submit an application through our online bursary application form. Links will be sent out over the summer so students can apply. If required, support will be available to assist you in making your application.

For the Vulnerable Bursary, please note that eligibility and entitlement are different. Funding is not automatically guaranteed and is subject to the actual financial needs of the student. For example, a care experienced student that lives just a short walk away from the College, will not receive financial support for transport, as there is no financial need.

How will the Vulnerable Bursary awards be paid?

Students that meet the criteria for the Vulnerable Bursary will have all financial barriers to accessing their course at Inspire Education Group removed. Travel passes / uniform / essential kit and equipment can all be provided based on need. Weekly payments will not be made to students receiving the bursary for vulnerable groups unless individual circumstances dictate that this is absolutely necessary, but this will be very rare.

I got Free School Meals at school, but my household income is above the threshold. Am I eligible?

No, you are not eligible. However, all households in receipt of Universal Credit will be entitled to a free meal.

I'm on a T Level course, do I get help to get to my placement?

Yes. Students can request help for transport or items that they need to complete their placements, up to the value of £275 per year. This is dependent on the nature and location of your placement and the financial barriers you as an individual are facing. Please speak to the Work Placement team or Information Centre staff 6 weeks in advance of your placement so that we can make sure everything you need is in place.

Will I be reimbursed if I purchase essential course items myself?

Yes. If you are in a position to purchase course equipment and uniform in advance of your bursary being awarded, that's great. Once you have your bursary award confirmed, you can submit copies of receipts to members of the Information teams and we will refund those costs for you. Items must be from the approved College suppliers and/or kit lists, and this does not include transport passes from Delaine or Stagecoach; the College will purchase those for you.

Where can I find more information about College financial support?

The websites for both Peterborough and Stamford Colleges are great places to look for all things financial support. You can also find a copy of the Student Financial Support and College Fees policies there as well.

I have a child, can I get help with childcare?

Yes, if you apply for childcare and are awarded, you will be sent an additional form to complete and return, to gather some further information about your chosen provider.

Financial support can help with the cost of childcare during timetabled hours and term time only. Your childcare provider must be Ofsted registered, this includes Nursery, Childminder, and Pre and After School Clubs. If you are in receipt of any early years funding, these hours must be used before any contributions for childcare are paid by the College directly to your provider.

Will applying for financial support impact my benefits?

No. Receiving financial support will not affect the amount or entitlement to any Department of Work and Pension (DWP) benefits you receive. Financial support is a discretionary fund to remove financial barriers so all students have the opportunity to study.

Is there a deadline to apply?

There's no deadline to apply but **the sooner you apply the better.** Applications can be submitted at any time during the academic year and an application can be revised if there's a change of circumstances.

Are there any students who cannot apply?

Students on Apprenticeship programmes are unable to apply as they are employed. Higher Education students are unable to apply if their course fees are funded by Student Finance.













Have questions?
We are here to help.

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College

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info@peterborough.ac.uk

Stamford
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www.stamford.ac.uk
01780 484311
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