



**BRIDGWATER
& TAUNTON
COLLEGE**

ADVANCED LEARNER LOANS BURSARY POLICY 2023/2024

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This policy and procedure applies to all Bridgwater & Taunton College staff and students.
- 1.2 This policy and procedure must be followed when making Bridgwater & Taunton College Advanced Learner Loan Bursary awards, and also when considering potential student appeals.

2 Policy Statement

- 2.1. The Advanced Learner Loan Bursary is provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).
- 2.2 The Bursary is awarded to assist students, who have taken out an Advanced Learner Loan to pay for their course, with the costs associated with coming to college therefore helping to breakdown any financial barriers that may discourage participation.
- 2.3 The Bursary is limited therefore early application is advised.

3 Scope

- 3.1 Students studying on an Advanced Learner Loan funded course who are on a low income or in receipt of income related benefits can apply for help from these funds.

4 Key Responsibilities

- Bridgwater & Taunton College is committed to a fair and transparent policy in respect of the award and administration of its Advanced Learner Loans Bursary.
- Responsibility for the assessment process for the Advanced Learner Loan Bursary Scheme lies with the Student Support Manager

5 Support Available through the Advanced Learning Loans Bursary

- 5.1 The allocation of the Advanced Learner Loans Bursary is from Central Government and is limited. Eligibility for assistance will therefore not necessarily guarantee an award.
- 5.2 The priority for the Bursary will be in helping any students for whom additional learning support needs have been identified following interviews with the Additional Learning Support Team. Funding to help such support will be provided through this allocation.
- 5.3 Further discretionary support may be provided with Childcare costs, Travel and other Hardship depending on individual need and allocation of the funds available.
- 5.4 Up to 90% of the childcare costs may be issued for childcare support and will be paid directly to the OFSTED registered childcare provider, monthly in arrears, from the College. In order to be considered for this support the annual household income will be less than £38,000 NET (this is take home pay).

- 5.5 Travel support may be granted for those students who live over 2 miles away from the site of study and whose annual household income is less than £38,000 NET (this is take home pay). In order to make the mileage assessment the College will estimate distance using Google Maps. The maximum amount that a student can receive for travel support will be £600. This is at the discretion of the College and will be allocated on a strictly first come, first served basis.

6 Eligibility

- 6.1 In order to be eligible to apply, students must:

- Be actively participating in a Bridgwater & Taunton College course at Level 3, 4, 5 and 6 or A levels (up to maximum of four full A-levels)
- Be in receipt of an Advanced Learner Loan and produce evidence of this with any application for the Bursary
- For Childcare and Travel Support, have a net household income (take home pay) of £38,000 or less, if living with a partner or £26,500 if living independently
- Meet the appropriate nationality/residency conditions as set out by the Advanced Learner Loan scheme
- Not be studying a Community Learning course or getting student finance for Higher Education.

7 Application Process

- In order to apply for help with the costs of Childcare and/or Travel the student must complete the Advanced Learner Loan Bursary application form, available from Student Support
- Students requiring additional learning support to complete their course will have had their needs identified by the Learning Support Team. The cost of this support will be internally transferred from the Advanced Learner Loan Bursary
- Fully completed application forms will be processed, where funding permits, within 15 working days of the date of receipt. Confirmation of any Childcare or Travel funding will be made in writing to the student, at the address given on the application form and College systems
- In order to ensure transparency in the allocation of funding, 20% of the funding available will be held back for programmes with in-year starts, and for applications that are received after September 2023. This is to ensure that that as many students as possible can apply for this funding.

8 Withdrawals

- 8.1 Payments to Childcare providers and Travel awards may be cancelled for students whose attendance falls below 90%, or on withdrawal from the course.

9 Appeals

- 9.1 Unsuccessful applicants wishing to appeal should write to the Director of Student Services within 10 working days of the date of notification of the outcome of their application, clearly stating the grounds for appeal.

9.2 Appeals will only be considered where there is evidence that a procedural irregularity has occurred in processing the application, not where a student is declined due to the limited nature of this funding.

10 Review of Policy

10.1 This policy will be reviewed annually in accordance with government priorities and amendments.