

What is the new bursary?

The 16-19 Bursary is a new £180 million scheme to help the most vulnerable young people continue in full-time education.

The scheme is made up of two parts:

1. There are guaranteed bursaries of £1,200 a year for the most vulnerable. This group is made up of children in care, care leavers and those on income support. Income support is paid to young people such as teenage parents, young people with severe disabilities, teenagers living away from their parents and young people whose parents have died.
2. Any student who faces genuine financial barriers to staying on in education and training.

What about young people who currently get EMA?

Transitional arrangements will help those who are part-way through their studies and are currently receiving the EMA.

- All students who successfully applied for EMA in 2009/10 and were given a 3 year guarantee will continue to receive payments at the level set for each week they are in education or training, until the end of the 2011/12 academic year.
- Those students who successfully applied for the maximum weekly EMA payment of £30 in 2010/11 will be eligible for £20 for each week they are in education or training, until the end of the 2011/12 academic year.
- Those students who successfully applied and currently receive £20 and £10 will continue to be eligible for it for the remainder of this year and it will then cease - they will not receive any EMA in 2011/12.

How much will young people get?

This will depend on their circumstances. The most vulnerable young people as stated above are guaranteed a bursary of £1,200 a year.

For other young people it will be entirely down to their school or college how much they get. Students currently receiving EMA are also eligible to apply for funds from the bursary.

When is this happening and when can I apply for a bursary?

The new scheme will start in September 2011 and the money will be distributed directly by schools, colleges and training providers during the 2011/12 academic year.

Who decides who will get money and what can the money be spent on?

Schools and colleges will decide. The money is for books, meals, transport or other course-related costs. Schools and colleges may choose to provide 'in kind' support under the bursary scheme, for example, by bulk purchasing equipment that students need for particular courses.

How do we know colleges will be fair?

The Department for Education will monitor the use of the 16-19 Bursary Fund closely in the first year of its operation. Schools, colleges and work-based training providers should all have established complaints processes. They are the first place to go for any young person who thinks that they have been treated unfairly.

I want to have a say in these changes – who do I contact?

The Government will now carry out an 8 week consultation on the scheme so the detailed arrangements can be finalised in time for allocations to be made to learning providers for the 2011/12 academic year. The e-consultation is available at www.education.gov.uk/consultations.