

# Higher Education

## Bursary Policy 2025/26

<b>Policy Family:</b>	Finance and Corporate Services
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<b>Originator:</b>	Assistant Principal Finance, IT and Estates
<b>Responsible Manager:</b>	Assistant Principal Finance, IT and Estates
<b>Committee for Approval:</b>	Finance and Corporate Services
<b>Approval Date:</b>	19 March 2025
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<b>Review Due:</b>	2025/26

**Impact Assessment Status:** In preparing the Policy, any potential disproportionate impact it might have upon individuals with protected characteristics, as defined in the Equality Act 2010, have been carefully considered. It is the conclusion of the College Group that the Policy does not adversely impact on individuals with any of the protected characteristics.

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## Aim

The Higher Education Bursary Policy aims to ensure that:

- Students facing financial hardship can access the appropriate financial support during their time at college to maximise participation and increase retention and achievement.
- The college fulfils its responsibility to ensure that bursaries are awarded appropriately in accordance with the aims of the scheme.

## Scope

Chesterfield College is committed to promoting and supporting the success of students undertaking higher level studies. The HE Bursary Fund is means tested and made available to support students with costs directly related to their studies.

The college is committed to doing everything it can to support its students; however, bursary funding is limited and cannot be guaranteed.

Any bursaries or financial support awarded are dependent upon satisfactory behaviour and attendance at college, in line with the college's Code of Conduct.

This policy and associated operating procedures apply to Chesterfield College, which includes our subsidiary companies: Training Services 2000 Ltd, Learning Unlimited ATA Ltd, Recruit Unlimited Ltd and Chesterfield College Enterprises Ltd.

## Policy Statements

### Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for a Higher Education Bursary, the student must meet the following essential criteria:

- A household income of £25,000 or less as assessed by Student Finance England (SFE).
- Entitlement to and approval to receive, or in receipt of, the full student loan for 2025/26.
- Not already a holder of a higher-level qualification such as a degree, foundation degree, CertHE, HNC, or HND, unless the prior qualification was taken at Chesterfield College and is part of the natural progression route for the subject.
- Not in receipt of full or part sponsorship for tuition fees (e.g., from an employer).
- Meeting a minimum attendance requirement of 88%.

### Assessment

The college will prioritise applications based on the above conditions. There is a limited amount of funding which is granted on a priority basis, with students identified as having a greater need receiving funding first.

### Prioritisation of Funding

High priority students are those who are:

- In, or have recently left, Local Authority care.
- Disabled and receiving Income Support.
- Disabled and receiving Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and either Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or Disability Living Allowance (DLA).
- Disabled and receiving Universal Credit in place of Income Support or ESA.
- Students with children, especially single parents.
- Carers.
- From BAME groups.
- Mature students with existing financial commitments.

### **Evidence of Eligibility**

Evidence of eligibility must be provided by the student at the time of application:

- For full-time students the income assessment is that used by SFE to assess entitlement to funding.
- For part-time students, as SFE do not income assess applicants, students will need to provide evidence of their income, benefit entitlement and, if appropriate, partner's gross income.
- Approval and/or receipt of the full student loan.

The Bursary Panel will assess attendance using registers.

### **Bursary Panel**

The Bursary Panel is made up of:

- Director of School responsible for Higher Education or equivalent.
- Assistant Principal Finance, IT and Estates or equivalent.
- Assistant Principal Student Experience and Wellbeing or equivalent.
- Higher and Adult Education Support Coordinator or equivalent.

The Bursary Panel meets to:

- Assess eligibility for the HE Bursary.
- Prioritise applications.
- Discuss individual students' attendance and whether they are up to date with their work.
- Approve funding awards.

The Bursary Panel meets on three separate occasions throughout the year that coincide with payments being made.

### **Application**

Applications can be made from October 2025, once applications open. This will be communicated to students by the Higher and Adult Education Support Coordinator.

Payments for eligible applications will only be made at set points and only to students who are currently enrolled.

The deadline for applications to be submitted to qualify for the first instalment payment is Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

The application form can be found at the end of this policy.

Students must provide evidence of eligibility at the time the application is submitted, otherwise the college may not be able to make bursary payments on the grounds of eligibility.

### **Notification**

Confirmation of awards granted by the Bursary Panel will be made to students' college email accounts.

### **Payment**

Payments will be made by BACS bank transfer to the student only and no other third party.

Payments are made in three instalments:

<b>Time Period</b>	<b>Bursary Awarded</b>
Instalment 1 Term 1 – September 2025 to December 2025	Quarter of total award
Instalment 2 Term 2 – January 2026 to April 2026	Half of total award
Instalment 3 Term 3 – April 2026 to June 2026	Quarter of total award

Students must remain enrolled to continue to receive bursary payments. If a student withdraws during the academic year, no further payments will be made.

Payments will normally be made in November, February, and May.

If an eligible application is made after the deadline of 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and there are funds available, assessment will be made on a case-by-case basis in line with the eligibility criteria outlined above. Funds will not be paid retrospectively for past payment dates.

If a student is in debt with the college, their bursary payment will not be paid until the student arranges repayment with the college's Finance Team. The student may choose to offset their bursary against outstanding debt.

If it is late discovered that an application is based on false information or circumstances, the college will seek to recover any payments, and the student may be subject to the college's Student and Apprentice Disciplinary Policy (TLA03).

### **Awards**

Chesterfield College has a finite amount of funds available to award as bursary grants. The amount awarded to each student is at the discretion of the Bursary Panel, who will consider:

- Total funds available.
- Number of applications.
- Household income of each student.

A portion of the bursary fund is reserved for hardship payments.

### **Hardship Payments**

Throughout the academic year students who find themselves in financial hardship may apply for a one-off payment to support them to continue their studies.

Applications should be made in writing to the Higher and Adult Education Support Coordinator.

Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the Bursary Panel.

### **Appeals**

Students may appeal the decision made by the Bursary Panel if they feel that they have mitigating circumstances that can explain either why they have not met the minimum attendance requirement or why they are not up to date with their work.

### **Withdrawal of Payment**

Students are expected to meet minimum standards of attendance and participation throughout their programme. Failure to do so may result in the withdrawal of bursary payments.

Where a student has been absent for a period of four consecutive weeks or more, excluding college holiday periods, and where a student has made the decision to withdraw from their programme of study, all bursary payments will be stopped. Payments will restart when attendance meets agreed minimum standards.

### **Protection of Bursary System from Abuse**

Where a student in receipt of bursary is withdrawn from college and later reinstated, the student will not automatically continue to receive bursary payments.

## **Implementation**

College staff involved in the administration of the bursary scheme will comply with college policy on the storage and transfer of information supplied as part of the application and payment of the Higher Education Bursary.

Complaints concerning failure to comply with the policy should be made in accordance with the college's Complaints and Compliments Policy and Procedures (CSE06).

## **Communication Flow**

The Higher Education Bursary Policy is available for staff and students to view on the staff intranet and college website.

All staff with responsibility for processing application forms and payments within the Higher Education, Student and Apprentice Services, and Finance Teams are familiar with and work to the policy outlined in this document.

## Monitoring

Implementation of the policy is continuously monitored by the Assistant Principal Finance, IT and Estates. The Assistant Principal Finance, IT and Estates will consult with staff on changes to the policy.

The policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and submitted to the Finance and Corporate Services Committee for approval.

## Related Chesterfield College Group Policies and Documents

- Complaints and Compliments Policy and Procedures – CSE06
- Student and Apprentice Disciplinary Policy and Procedures – TLA03

## HIGHER EDUCATION BURSARY AND HARDSHIP FUND APPLICATION FORM 2025/26

- Only complete this form if you are a **higher education** student in academic year 2025/26.
- Please read carefully and complete **all** sections. All questions are designed to check your eligibility for funding; if you leave sections blank this may mean that you are not awarded all the money you may be entitled to.
- Where additional evidence is required, this will be clearly stated.
- If you include additional evidence, please ensure that these are **photocopies or scans** and not original documents.
- If you prefer to complete the form electronically and email, please send to [hebursary@chesterfield.ac.uk](mailto:hebursary@chesterfield.ac.uk).

### WHAT COSTS COULD THE BURSARY COVER?

If your **household income is £25,000 or less**, you may be eligible to receive a cash payment to support with costs directly related to your studies. Please note that due to the high demand for financial support, awards are discretionary and are subject to change. Late or incomplete applications may not receive an award.

**HE Bursary** is intended to cover standard payments to any higher education students meeting the requirements.

**HE Hardship Fund** is intended to offer additional exceptional support for students in more extreme need.

### ANY QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions or need assistance with any sections of this form, please contact the Higher and Adult Education Support Coordinator or email [hebursary@chesterfield.ac.uk](mailto:hebursary@chesterfield.ac.uk) or contact Main Reception at our Infirmary Road campus.

I am applying for the <b>HE Bursary</b> (standard financial award). <i>Please complete sections 1-7, section 9, and the checklist.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am applying for the <b>HE Hardship Fund</b> (extraordinary payment for exceptional circumstances). <i>Please complete sections 1-9, and the checklist.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>



SECTION 1 – STUDENT DETAILS				Admin Check
Forename		Surname		
Student Number				
Date of Birth		Age on 31/08/2025		
Title of Course				
Mode of Study	<input type="checkbox"/> Full-Time <input type="checkbox"/> Part-Time			

SECTION 2 – TUITION FEES		Admin Check
Please confirm how you are funding the tuition fees for your course.		
Student Finance England Loan.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Self-Funded.</b> <i>You will <b>not</b> be eligible for HE Bursary but <b>may</b> be eligible for HE Hardship Fund.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Employer Funded.</b> <i>You will <b>not</b> be eligible for HE Bursary but <b>may</b> be eligible for HE Hardship Fund.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

SECTION 3 – PREVIOUS QUALIFICATIONS		Admin Check
Please confirm your current highest level of qualification <b>before starting</b> your current course. This may affect your eligibility for the HE Bursary and HE Hardship Fund.		
A Levels/BTEC/Level 3 equivalent.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
HNC/CertEd/Level 4 equivalent.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
HND/Foundation Degree/Level 5 equivalent.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
BA/BSc/Honours Degree/Level 6 equivalent.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Was the qualification stated gained at Chesterfield College?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

SECTION 4 – HOUSEHOLD INCOME		Admin Check
Please check and complete <b>EITHER</b> section A or section B depending on whether you are a full-time or part-time student.		
<b>A. Full-Time Student</b>		
<b>I have applied for and been awarded maintenance support from Student Finance England.</b> <i>EVIDENCE: you will need to provide evidence of this, for example:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A copy of your letter from Student Finance England (SFE).</li> <li>• A screenshot from SFE showing your maintenance support.</li> <li>• A copy of a bank statement showing income from SFE.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>I have not applied/are not eligible for maintenance support from Student Finance England.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>B. Part-Time Student</b>		
Please indicate your living arrangements.		
<b>I live alone or with my child/children only.</b> <i>Only your own income will need to be evidenced.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>I live with my parents.</b> <i>Only your own income will need to be evidenced.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>I live with my spouse or partner.</b> <i>Both incomes will need to be evidenced.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>I live with other friends/flatmates/relatives.</b> <i>Only your own income will need to be evidenced.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Please tick which of the following forms of income applies to you or to your spouse/partner (if applicable). <i>EVIDENCE: you will need to provide evidence of any income indicated below, for example:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of a bank statement.</li> <li>• Copies of recent payslips.</li> <li>• Tax credits confirmation.</li> <li>• P60.</li> <li>• Employer letter.</li> </ul> <i>If you have ZERO income, please provide a copy of a recent bank statement confirming this.</i>		
	<b>Student</b>	<b>Spouse/Partner</b>
<b>Weekly/monthly salary (wages).</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Child Tax Credits.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Working Tax Credits.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>JSA/ESA/Universal Credit/Income Support.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Housing Benefit/Mortgage Interest Relief.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Child Support Allowance.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Council Tax Benefit.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Pension.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Any other state benefit (not including Child Support).</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Any other income.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>SECTION 5 – EMPLOYMENT</b>		<b>Admin Check</b>
Please confirm your employment status.		
<b>Employed (full-time).</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Employed (part-time).</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Self-employed.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Unemployed and looking for work.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Unemployed and not looking for work.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>SECTION 6 – DEPENDENTS</b>		<b>Admin Check</b>
<b>Do you have any children under 18 who are financially dependent on you?</b> <i>If yes, please give details below.</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Full Name(s)</b>	<b>Date of Birth</b>	<b>Relationship to you</b>
<b>Do you have any adults who are financially dependent on you?</b> <i>If yes, please give details below.</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Full Name(s)</b>	<b>Date of Birth</b>	<b>Relationship to you</b>

<b>SECTION 7 – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>		<b>Admin Check</b>
The college is committed to improving access, success, and progression in Higher Education. As such, it follows the Office for Students' good practice advice to target those groups which are underrepresented in HE. The following information will enable us to continue to support those groups.		
<b>Are you in care/a care leaver?</b> <i>EVIDENCE: you will need to provide a letter from your social worker/MAT worker/support worker to confirm this.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>What is your ethnicity?</b>		
<b>Are you registered disabled, or do you receive any disability-related benefits?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

<b>SECTION 8 – HARDSHIP FUND</b>		<b>Admin Check</b>
<p>You only need to complete this section if you are applying for the <b>HE Hardship Fund</b>.</p> <p>Please give any additional information to support your application, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any additional expenses you are incurring for your course.</li> <li>• Any additional pressures on your income.</li> <li>• Recent changes in your employment status or income.</li> </ul>		

<b>SECTION 9 – DECLARATION AND SIGNATURE</b>			
Please read and sign the declaration.			
I declare that the information provided is correct at the time of application, and that providing false information may result in the retraction of any awards made. I agree to inform the Higher and Adult Education Support Coordinator if my income changes and exceeds the £25,000 threshold during the academic year.			
<b>Student Signature</b>		<b>Date</b>	

**DATA PROTECTION**

The information you have provided on this form will be used by Chesterfield College Group to process your bursary application and for planning of support in future academic years. Your information will be kept for up to 7 years, after which it will be removed from our paper and electronic records. You can find full information about how we use your personal information from the Student Privacy Notice, which you can find at [www.chesterfield.ac.uk/dataprotection](http://www.chesterfield.ac.uk/dataprotection).

**WHAT HAPPENS NOW?**

If your form is fully completed, and has all the evidence we require, we will usually process your application within 3 weeks of receiving it. However, due to the high volume of applications this process may take longer. You will be notified of the outcome via email and further information regarding your bursary award can be obtained by sending an enquiry to [hebursary@chesterfield.ac.uk](mailto:hebursary@chesterfield.ac.uk). We are unable to process a bursary application without all evidence of income indicated in Section 4 of this form. Bursary funds for students submitting incomplete forms or without the required evidence will not be earmarked and the college cannot guarantee the availability of funds upon resubmission of the form.

## CHECKLIST

Before submitting your application, please check that you have completed the following.

Section 1-7 completed in full.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Section 8 completed if applying for HE Hardship Fund.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Declaration signed in section 9.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any evidence requested has been included.	<input type="checkbox"/>
HE Bursary BACS form completed to allow any bursary awarded to be paid.	<input type="checkbox"/>

## ADMIN USE ONLY

Date received		Date checked		
Date assessed by panel		Date student informed		
Attendance %		Meets essential criteria for HE Bursary?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Meets priority criteria for HE Bursary?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Award for HE Bursary	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Declined	
Bursary amount awarded (total)		Termly payments	Term 1	
			Term 2	
			Term 3	
Award for HE Hardship Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Declined	Hardship amount awarded (total)		
Signed, Director of School responsible for Higher Education				
Signed, Finance Manager				

## FINANCE USE ONLY

Bank details received	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Added to LSF ledger	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Payments made (date)	Term 1		
	Term 2		
	Term 3		

**\*PLEASE CONTINUE FOR BACS FORM\***

Office Use:

## HE BURSARY BACS FORM

Bursary payments will be made by BACS transfer into a student's bank account. Please complete and return this form **with your HE Bursary and Hardship Fund Application.**

Please ensure that the details provided below are accurate; any funds misdirected or lost due to errors in the details given below will not be repaid.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bank Details**

**Name as it appears on bank account:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bank Sort Code:** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Bank Account Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Account Holder Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATA PROTECTION**

The information you have provided on this form will be used by Chesterfield College Group to process your bursary application and for planning of support in future academic years. Your information will be kept for up to 7 years, after which it will be removed from our paper and electronic records. You can find full information about how we use your personal information from the Student Privacy Notice, which you can find at [www.chesterfield.ac.uk/dataprotection](http://www.chesterfield.ac.uk/dataprotection).