

16-19 Bursary Guidelines for students

The following information applies to students aged 16 to 19 on 31st August 2011 taking a full-time further education course in 2011/12.

EMA update

If you received EMA in 2010/11 and will be on a full-time course in 2011/12, you may continue to receive it until the end of the 2011/12 academic year.

> If you first received EMA in 2009/10, you will continue to receive EMA at the same rate as now (£10, £20 or £30 per week).

> If you first received EMA in 2010/11 and are getting the highest rate of £30 per week, you will continue to get EMA next year but your weekly payments will be reduced to £20.

> If you first received EMA in 2010/11 but are getting the lower weekly rates of £20 or £10, you will not get EMA in 2011/12. However, you may still be able to get financial help through the 16-19 Bursary Fund

If you think you qualify to continue to get EMA, you do not need to take any action; the national EMA administration will write to you with further information.

£1200 bursary

The government has announced that some students will be entitled to a grant or bursary of £1200* next year. You could get this if you are in one of the following categories:

> You are living in care

> You are a care leaver

> You are receiving income support

> You are disabled and receiving both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance

If you think you are eligible for this £1200 bursary, please contact Miss Smith, the Sixth Form centre leader.

**If you are eligible for this and the continuing EMA scheme, you will receive this bursary instead of the EMA - you will not be able to claim both.*

What is the 14-19 Bursary?

From September 2011 the Government will be introducing a Bursary Fund. This will be made available through its funding body - Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) for 16-18 year olds - to provide assistance to students whose access to, or completion of, education is inhibited by financial constraints or barriers. The new Bursary scheme for 16-19 year olds has been put in place as a partial replacement for the Education Maintenance Allowance. Unlike the EMA, however, schools, colleges and training providers will be responsible for awarding bursaries to students.

How does Cleeve assess applications and allocate 16-19 Bursary funding?

The 16-19 Bursary Fund is a limited fund and Cleeve will prioritise its allocation according to 3 priority groups, categorised as high, medium and low. Students need to apply by 6th October 2011. The level of funding available is for the academic year 2011-12: further years' funding is not yet known.

The three priority groups:

Funding will be provided on the basis of a tiered system, where those on the lowest household income (i.e. are eligible for FSM) will receive the highest award.

Group 1

High priority group

Students aged under 19 on 31/08/11 and who fall into one of the following categories:

- Are currently in care (as defined by social services)
- Are leaving or have recently left care
- Are in receipt of Income Support in their own name
- Are disabled and in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance

Eligible students will be guaranteed a £1200 bursary to provide support with costs such as transport, equipment, etc.

Payments will be made on termly basis (i.e. 3 times per year). These will be dependent on meeting the learning agreement for 6th Form Bursary students.

Group 2

Medium priority group

Students who fall into the following category:

- Have a gross annual household income of below £16,190 and are eligible for FSM

Students in this group, if they apply to the 16–19 Bursary Fund by the 6th October 2011, will be eligible for funding (amount awarded will be dependent on the number of eligible applications) to contribute towards the cost of transport, essential course equipment, trips, uniforms, materials, etc.

Payments will be made on a termly basis (i.e. 3 times per year). These will be dependent on meeting the learning agreement for 6th Form Bursary students.

Group 3

Low priority group

Students who fall into one of the following categories:

- Have a gross annual household income of between £16,191 and £20,817
- Have a gross annual household income of between £20,818 and £25,521

(N.B. these figures are based on the most recent EMA income brackets)

Those in the low priority group will be eligible for funding based on the Cleeve allocation criteria and subject to available funding.

Payments will be made on a termly basis (i.e. 3 times per year). These will be dependent on meeting the learning agreement for 6th Form Bursary students.

(Scroll down)

Students currently receiving EMA:

You applied in 2009/10

If you first applied successfully for EMA in 2009/10 you'll continue to receive the same level of weekly payments while you study in 2011/12.

You applied in 2010/11

If you first applied successfully for the maximum EMA payment of £30 a week in 2010/11, you'll receive £20 a week while you study in 2011/12.

You are in care, a care leaver, or receive an allowance

If you're in care, a care leaver, on income support or receiving both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance, your weekly EMA payments will be replaced with a bursary of £1,200 a year from September 2011. You'll receive that bursary directly from your school, college or training provider.

What do you need to do next?

If you think you may be eligible for a bursary then it is wise to ensure that you have opened your own bank account.

Your school will consider eligibility for Free School Meals when considering applications for funding.

For advice speak to Miss Smith or Mrs Edwards or go to www.direct.gov.uk/16-19bursary

Apply by the 6th October 2011 to ensure that, if you are eligible, you are able to claim the maximum that could be available to you.