

Learner Bursary Guidance

19+ Advanced Learner Loan Bursary 2023-24



Overview

19+ Advanced Learner Loan Bursary

- To be eligible for help from the 19+ Advanced Learner Loan bursary fund in the 2023 to 2024 academic year, you must be aged 19+ and have a fully approved Advanced Learner Loan.
- Progressors and Returners will be paid the Friday before the start of term and new learners will be paid Friday of the first week or thereafter, once your application has been approved.
- New learners **MUST** be able to fund travel and meals themselves for a minimum of one week at the start of term before your bursary is paid. Any costs for the first week will be reimbursed as per the eligibility guidelines.

Contacts

Please direct all queries to Bursary.Support@accesstomusic.ac.uk The Inbox is monitored by Louise Langton and Jade McEwan as the Bursary Support Team. The department is managed by Francesca Saunders-Proudlove who is Access Creative College's Funding & Compliance Manager.

Bank Accounts

To receive your Bursary payments, you must have your own bank account; this must be a current account (not a savings or Post Office account or similar). If there is a reason as to why you cannot have your own bank account, we will require signed authority confirming your agreement to payments being made to a third party of your choice. If the latter is applicable, please make this known as early as possible.

Bursary Types

The below Bursary Types can all be applied for if you are eligible for the 19+ Advanced Learner Loan Bursary:

- Meals and travel
- Course materials and equipment (as required for your course) Kit Reimbursement required for Access Sport and SGA Academy courses must be approved in advance by course leaders before a purchase is made.
- Childcare (aged 20+)
- Residential Costs
- Trips (as required for your course)

Please be advised that students aged 19 or over are not eligible for bursaries for vulnerable groups.

19+ Advanced Learner Loans Meals Bursary

Meals are capped at £4 per day (Only for college days timetabled)

Criteria for the 19+ Advanced Learner Loans Meals Bursary are as follows:

- We can accept any of the low-income state benefits that are listed here in either your own name, or your Parent/Guardians name if you live in the same household and they are supporting you financially: <https://www.litrg.org.uk/tax-guides/tax-credits-and-benefits/state-benefits>
- All evidence of state benefit letters apart from Tax Credits must be dated from April 2023 or later.
- Tax Credit letters must be dated from 2022 to 2023.
- We will accept Universal Credit regardless of the Household Income or take home pay provided the evidence is in date.

Free Meal Funding is available for all eligible students for each day the student attends their study programme, where this is appropriate.

19+ Advanced Learner Loans Travel Bursary

Criteria for the 19+ Advanced Learner Loans Travel Bursary are as follows:

- Household income (whether through salary or benefits) must be below £40,000.
- We can accept any of the low-income state benefits that are listed here:
<https://www.litrq.org.uk/tax-guides/tax-credits-and-benefits/state-benefits>
- If you are not in receipt of benefits, or are supported by Parents/Guardians financially and they are not in receipt of benefits, then we can accept a P60 or payslips covering the 3 months prior to application.
- All evidence of state benefit letters, apart from Tax Credits, must be dated from April 2023 or later.
- You must provide your exact travel route & company so that we can calculate your travel costs.
- If you travel by train Access Creative College will also reimburse you for the cost of a Rail Card to further reduce your travel costs if you are eligible for the railcard.

Travel is capped at £2,000 per annum (exceptions to be reviewed individually)

**Please note, if you are applying for the 19+ Residential Bursary, you are not entitled to the Travel Bursary.
It is one or the other.**

19+ Advanced Learner Loans Residential Bursary

Criteria for the 19+ Residential Bursary is as per the below:

- You must have a fully approved Advanced Learner Loan and upload a copy of your award letter.
- You must not have moved specifically for the course if the same, or a similar course, was available at a College more local to your home address.
- You must not be in receipt of Housing Benefit.
- You must be in receipt of a low Income Benefit-
<https://www.litr.org.uk/tax-guides/tax-credits-and-benefits/state-benefits>
- You must be able to prove one or both of the following:
 - Travel to your chosen College would take either 2+ hours each way or cost £100+ per week.
- You must not submit an application for a rented property that you are already living in as of the point of enrolment or your Parents/Guardians home if living with Parents/Guardians.
- You must not be living in the home of a Friend or other Family member.
- You must be able to provide a copy of your Tenancy Agreement or Contract.
- You must provide your Landlord/Rental Agencies Contact Details.

Bursary Funds will be capped at either 75% of the Total Rent Cost or £1,200 per term

Childcare

If you are aged 20 or over as of 31/08/2023 you may be eligible to apply for support towards Childcare costs on the days that you attend College. The below criteria must be met:

- You must be your child's main carer.
- You, or your parents/guardians if you live with them and they are supporting you financially, must be in receipt of one of the below benefits:
 - Income Support
 - Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)
 - Employment Support Allowance
 - State Pension Credit (guaranteed element)
 - Child or Working Tax Credit
 - Universal Credit
 - Recent P60 or 3 months Payslips confirming Household Income is under £40,000
- The childcare provider that you provide must be Ofsted registered and their registration number provider
- Payment will be made directly to the Childcare provider.

The amount per day will be capped at £75.00. This will be paid in retrospect for the days that you have attended college that month. Both yourself and your childcare provider must confirm your acknowledgement that Access Creative College will only pay for the days that you have attended college (not days timetabled) for the previous month. Any shortfall in terms of cost must be covered by the learner.