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2023-24 Academic Year

Bursary and Scholarship Scheme

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Definitions

A bursary is a financial support provided by the College to eligible students that they are not required to pay back. A scholarship is a grant or payment made to support a student's education, awarded based on eligibility criteria aimed at improving student access, success and progress from higher education. The scholarship is often referred to as Foundation Year Fee-waiver. At LSME, our scholarships generally reduce the amount of tuition fee payable and may be aimed at diminishing the financial burden on students who intend to obtain a qualification but have limited means due to their social circumstances.

LSME Bursaries and Scholarships are discretionary and provided only to eligible students. Bursaries do not affect your student finances through SLC. Some may receive both the Bursary and Scholarship. Students may receive this Bursary for one year and it may continue for each year of their course depending on the assessment and their eligibility. Bursaries and scholarships and their terms and conditions are subject to change.

For students who are recruited via our Access and Participation outreach projects, we use the details submitted during the admission process to assess their entitlement for the LSME Bursary and Scholarship. Hence, these students do not need to apply for them. If a student is eligible, we inform them via email shortly after they start their course to receive the awards detailed below which are paid in instalments. The first instalment will be paid in the first term, if all requirements are met.

Three award areas are as follows:

1. Discretionary Scholarships

There are two types of scholarships awarded in this category.

Foundation Year Fee-waivers

This scholarship is often referred to as Foundation Year Fee-waiver and is awarded to students who are AP-eligible, UK-domiciled and full-time students registered on our Foundation Year programme. This may be full Foundation Year fee-waiver or discounted fees. The assessments are carried out by the AP Team based on their enrolment data. These scholarships are administered through the SLC.

2. LSME Discretionary Means-Tested Minimum Bursary

AP eligible students enrolled in the Foundation Year, degree programme or Diploma in Education and Training may receive an annual discretionary bursary based on an internal assessment. It is received by all eligible students and helps to make purchases to aid their studies, such as stationeries, study materials, internet broadband or support transportation costs to the College. This Bursary is administered by LSME through the SLC.

3. LSME Discretionary Means-Tested Hardship Fund

Students who are in the AP target groups may be eligible to a one-off hardship fund in an academic year. It is means-tested and will also be subject to the nature of the hardship and the circumstances faced by the student. Those who are not AP eligible may also be offered hardship fund support, if there is a change in circumstances that necessitates a fresh assessment. Such students may write to APP@lsme.ac.uk with explanation requesting an assessment. This Bursary is administered by LSME directly or through SLC.

Bursary and Scholarships for Student Access and Participation (AP) Eligible Students

1. NEET Category (For all Bursaries and Scholarships)

Students admitted to LSME on a Foundation Year programme from the partnership referral organisations or through our external outreach programmes who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) may be considered for bursaries, hardship funds and fee-waivers based on their internal assessments.

2. Disabled Students (For Discretionary Minimum Bursary only)

Based on assessments students with disabilities and special needs, both seen and unseen are considered for financial under discretionary bursary and hardship funds and they may include:

- Cognitive impairments such as dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia
- Mental health issues
- Mild to moderate physical disabilities
- Sensory disabilities including hearing and visual impairment
- Chronic unseen disabilities etc

3. Refugees and Care Leavers (For Discretionary Minimum Bursary only)

Refugee and Care Leaver students are eligible to financial support through discretionary bursary and hardship funds. The documents submitted at the time of enrolment will be assessed by the AP Team to check their eligibility.

4. Other students particularly Black Caribbean and Asians learners (for discretionary bursary and Hardship funds)

The students of Black Caribbean and Asian ethnic groups may be eligible to financial support through discretionary bursary and hardship funds. The documents submitted at the time of enrolment will be assessed by the AP Team to check their eligibility.

Terms and Conditions

To be considered for a discounted fee scholarship with Bursary, you must be eligible for and have applied to Student Finance England or equivalent assessing agency for undergraduate means-tested maintenance support via the SLC. Those students undertaking a second degree may find that they are not eligible for Scholarships and Bursaries.

If you are eligible for a Bursary, we may contact you during your studies regarding other opportunities you might be interested in, such as other funding schemes available to UK students. Your data will not be passed to other parties.

The Bursaries are paid each year of your course while you are in attendance. It will discontinue as soon as you withdraw from the course or you are not able to maintain a minimum of 80% attendance record and fail to make any progress towards the achievement of your qualification.

If you take a leave of absence during the year you won't have to repay the Bursary you have already received, however, you won't be eligible to receive any further instalments due to be paid.

You are eligible to receive the Bursary each year of full-time study. If you repeat part of your course part-time, we may be able to consider you for a pro-rata award.

Bursaries do not normally have to be paid back, as they are a grant, not a loan. However, if you withdraw from your course or transfer to another College or University, you may have to repay a percentage of your Bursary that you received in that academic year. Your Bursary entitlement will be re-assessed in line with the Tuition Fee Refund Policy.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have had your household income assessed correctly by your Funding Body and College.

If your circumstances change, for example, if your household income is reassessed by Student Finance England, the Bursary amount that you are eligible for may be affected in future years. If this is the case, you will not have to repay any of your Bursary you have already received.

To ascertain your eligibility under Low Participating Neighbourhood category your postcode data will be used to check if you fall within quintiles Q1 and Q2 of POLAR4 or the Index of Multiple Deprivation Scales.

Bursary awards must be assessed and paid within the academic year and cannot be backdated for previous years.

Payment

All Bursary awards administered by LSME will be paid in a maximum of three instalments. The exact payment dates will be confirmed in your Bursary confirmation email.



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