



Free Meals for Academic Year 2021/2022 Young Person's Guide

Summary

The Skills Service provide free meals to disadvantaged students who are aged over 16 and enrolled on a Study Programme or 16-18 Traineeship. 'Disadvantage' is defined by the students or their parents/guardian being in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:

- Income support
- Income based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- support under part V1 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit) & have an annual gross income of no more than **£16,190**, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs
- Working Tax Credit run-on paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit with net earnings not exceeding the equivalent of £7,400 pa

Key points

- Free meals are payable, subject to attendance of at least 3 hours/day
- In the 2021/2022 academic year we will contribute £2.50 towards the cost of a meal
- To be eligible for a free meal you must be enrolled on a Skills Service funded course
- You must be aged between 16 and 18 on 31st August 2021
- Students aged 19 to 24 who are subject to an Education Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) and meet the benefits criteria above may also apply for free meals

How to apply

- In order to apply for a free meal, you must be eligible for a Vulnerable or Discretionary bursary. Your training provider will check whether you are eligible to apply and will issue you with an application form. The form must be fully completed and returned to your training provider along with supporting evidence within 4 weeks of your start date.

How will you be paid?

- You will be paid weekly in arrears directly into your own bank account
- You will only be paid for days of actual attendance
- Payments are dependent on submission of a weekly timesheet by your training provider which shows a minimum attendance of 3 hours per day
- You will not be paid for holidays or when your training provider centre is closed
- Full national information is available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/free-meals-in-further-education-funded-institutions-guide-for-the-2021-to-2022-academic-year>

If you have any questions, or if you require more information, please talk to your training provider.