



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



## Financial Contingency Fund (FCF) for Students 2021-2022 – Guidance Notes

Do concerns about money make it difficult for you to attend College? If so, the Fund may be able to help...

### WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL CONTINGENCY FUND?

A pot of money, provided by Welsh Government, from which full-time and part-time students experiencing financial hardship can apply to receive help. It must be applied for every year. This is not an entitlement.

### WHAT FINANCIAL HELP MIGHT I GET?

Help towards Childcare costs, transport, meals, course equipment and clothing, accommodation, other costs.

### TRANSPORT

All students up to the age of 21 need to apply for a Welsh Government My Travel Pass (MTP)

and

- **Neath** students should purchase an M-ticket from First Cymru buses at £100 per term with an MTP and £150 without an MTP. If the FCF application is successful, the termly fee may be refunded on submission of the original receipt.
- **Powys** students on EMA may apply to the FCF for help with bus pass costs, if you are not eligible for a free one (living more than 3 miles from college, age 16-18).

### COLLEGE MEALS

Free College meals may be available for eligible Students, but only for the days you are in College.

### COURSE RELATED CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

You may be able to receive help to buy items such as special clothes or equipment need for your course. If you leave your course early, you will be required to return all items to the College, or you will be invoiced for the cost.

### COURSE RELATED VISITS

These must be essential for the course, previously agreed within the College and notified to Student Support.

### CHILDCARE

The Fund can only pay for childcare with a registered child carer for 1 child only. If College nursery places (Neath College only) are available, these must be used in the first instance.

**OTHER COSTS** may be considered – please ask.

### CAN I APPLY FOR FCF?

To apply, you need to be aged 16 and over and enrolled on full or part-time Further Education course at the College (minimum of 275 hours per academic year). The fund is means tested.

- If you are aged between 16 and 18 on 31 August 2021, you must first apply for the Education Maintenance Allowance. (EMA).
- If you are aged 19 or over 31 August 2021, you must first apply for the Welsh Government Learning Grant. (WGLG).

You can pick up an application form for EMA or WGLG from Student Support or download one from Student Finance Wales [www.studentfinancewales.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk)

If you are not eligible for the EMA or WGLG and have concerns about money that are making it difficult for you to attend college, please ask one of the Student Support Team at the college Student Zone.

### HOW TO APPLY

FCF application forms will be available from Student Support in August/September.

Please note, applications for funding from the FCF are generally based on you having being awarded EMA or WGLG but the College will look at exceptional cases on an individual basis.

### IMPORTANT

Help from the FCF is based on need and therefore the amounts allocated will vary. The fund is limited and allocated on a first come first served basis, so early application is essential. When the money in the Fund is gone, it is gone.

### SEND YOUR FORM TO:

[studentsupport@nptcgroup.ac.uk](mailto:studentsupport@nptcgroup.ac.uk) or call in at the Student Zone at any college site.

All questions on the application form must be answered. If anything is missing, the form will be returned to you, and your application will be delayed. Please Note - For some types of support, further documentation will be needed, this includes Child Care provision.

Please email [studentsupport@nptcgroup.ac.uk](mailto:studentsupport@nptcgroup.ac.uk) call Student Support on 01639 648000 (Neath) or 01686 614200 (Powys), if you have any queries about your form the Student Support Team will happy to help.

We will write to you about your application as soon as possible.

To appeal against a decision please contact [studentsupport@nptcgroup.ac.uk](mailto:studentsupport@nptcgroup.ac.uk)

**ALL FUNDING IS DEPENDENT ON FULL ATTENDANCE IN COLLEGE**