PINC COLLEGE
16 to 18 DEFINED VULNERABLE GROUPS BURSARY FUND

pinc college

CREATIVE

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026- 2027

Overview

The 16 to 18 Defined Vulnerable Groups Bursary is for students who are aged 16 or over but under 19 on 31 August 2026. Applications can be made if students are:

- in care
- care leavers
- receiving Income Support (IS), or Universal Credit (UC) because they are financially supporting themselves or financially supporting themselves and someone who is dependent on them and living with them, such as a child or partner
- receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payments (PIP) in their own right as well as Employment ***as well*** as Employment Support Allowance (ESA) or UC in their own right

UC has now fully rolled out and so young people aged 16 to 18 will no longer be in receipt of the other benefits listed above.

The bursary fund is intended to help students with the essential costs of participating in their study programme. Help with the cost of essential books or equipment or with the cost of travelling to college, for example. The bursary fund is not intended to support costs not related to education (living costs), extra-curricular activities or provide learning support – services that institutions give to students – such as counselling, mentoring or extra tutoring.

The vulnerable groups bursary is allocated by Department for Education (DFE) and Pinc College will make the application on behalf of students once it has confirmed their eligibility for the fund. Wherever possible, payments will be made in-kind rather than in cash.

Support Costs

The bursary fund is intended to help students with the essential costs of participating in their study programme. Help with the cost of essential books or equipment or with the cost of travelling to college, for example. The bursary fund is not intended to support costs not related to education (living costs), extra-curricular activities or provide learning support – services that institutions give to students – such as counselling, mentoring or extra tutoring.

Even though a student may pass the eligibility criteria, they may not receive an award because their financial costs are already being met by other sources. Or a reduced award could be made because the financial help they need is limited. For example, a student may be in the care of a local authority that is covering the costs of their education in full, or travel costs are being met by a student's local authority.

Evidence

Evidence to support the application will be needed, such as:

- Written confirmation (letter or email) of current/previous 'Looked After' status from the relevant Local Authority.

- Leaving Care Review Document.

- A copy of the students Universal Credit (UC) or Income Support award notice. For students in receipt of UC the award/statements must be accompanied with other documents to show they are independently supporting themselves or other who are financially dependent on them. documents could include but are not limited to; a tenancy agreement in the student's name, a child benefit receipt, children's birth certificates, utility bills and so on.

- For students receiving UC/ESA **and** DLA or PIP, a copy of their UC award notice from DWP and evidence of receipt of DLA or PIP.

UC claimants should be able to print off details of their award from their online account or provide a screenshot to the institution.

Students can also contact their UC Work Coach (or relevant Benefit Office if they are receiving getting IS or ESA) and ask them for help in providing evidence of receiving benefits.

Purchases

Wherever possible, Pinc College will purchase items such as books, educational equipment, laptops, tablets, protective art wear and transport, including travel passes and taxi fares in-kind.

- **books and equipment such as a laptop and iPad, together with protective art wear, will remain the ownership of Pinc College and must be returned on leaving/completion of a study programme**

Where payments are made upon production of receipts, payments will be made by BACS to the student bank account. In very exceptional circumstances where the student is unable to administer their own bank account, the College will agree an alternative payment method.

Assessment

Following receipt of your application form Pinc College will verify the evidence and confirm eligibility. We will then assess the actual amount of financial support you need to participate.

Some students may meet the eligibility criteria, but their financial needs are already being met, for example by their local authority, or they have no relevant costs and do not need the award.

If Pinc College considers that an award should be made, we will submit a claim to the DFE on your behalf.

If you are successful in receiving bursary funding it does not affect receipt of other means-tested benefits paid to families, such as Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Child Benefit, Working Tax Credit, Housing Benefit or, generally, Universal Credit

Confidentiality

Please note that our policy is to maintain strict confidentiality in the review and storage of any information that is held.

Application Process

You request that an application form is posted to you or collect one from the College. We can help if you require any further information or have questions about how to complete your application.

Completed application forms, and supporting information, are considered by a panel to ensure that funds are allocated for those students who genuinely need them. A bursary will only be paid if attendance and behaviour meet our required standards.

Email: connect@pinccollege.co.uk

Applications and full supporting evidence (see application form) should be submitted to the college by 31 October 2026. Should you be unable to meet this submission date, the college will also consider applications made before Thursday 4 February 2027.

It is unlikely that it will be necessary to consider applications after this date, unless a student has commenced their study programme after February 2027.

Please note these are strict deadlines and extensions will not be given.

There is also a guide for students (and parents) which can be found on the government's website as follows: https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund