

# Benefits and Entitlements- Education

A young person's guide for  
Bridgend

Resource 7 of 12



You may also like to read these resources:

- Benefits and Entitlements
- Money- I need some
- Budgeting
- Getting Around- Bridgend

Getting Ready Project



If you are looking to go to College there is support available to you. Let's start with grants.

### Useful websites

For further information go to:

- <https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/fe.aspx>
- <https://www.bridgend.ac.uk/study-with-us/student-finance/>
- <https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people/get-funding-train-learn>

## Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

This is an allowance you receive when you attend College.

You:

- must be 16-18
- must live in a house with low income
- will receive £30 per week
- must carry on attending College to carry on receiving the money

Apply for this by end June before your course starts.

For further information speak to Student Support Services



## Princes Trust

For young people aged 16-30

You can apply for help towards the cost of:

- course fees
- equipment

You have to be:

- studying less than 14 hours per week or not in compulsory education
- unemployed or working less than 16 hours per week

## Coleg Penybont

You may be able to get financial support from Bridgend college which covers

- Travel
- Meals
- Childcare costs
- Course related equipment

[www.bridgend.ac.uk/study-with-us/student-finance/](https://www.bridgend.ac.uk/study-with-us/student-finance/)

## Welsh Government Learning Grant

If you are aged 19+ you can get some support towards the cost of studying:

- you can get up to £1500 for a full time course
- you can get up to £750 for a part time course
- how much you get depends on your income

It is recommended you apply by end June before your course starts.



COLLEGE-GRANTS

### Key Contacts and more information

The point of contact for care experienced young people in Coleg Penybont

- Student Wellbeing Team
- [wellbeing@bridgend.ac.uk](mailto:wellbeing@bridgend.ac.uk)
- 01656 302 302 Ext 488

For more information about Learner Support go to:

<https://www.bridgend.ac.uk/student-life/wellbeing/>

COLEG  
SIR GAR



This page describes the support available to care experienced young people attending Coleg Penybont



## Financial Contingency Fund

- Coleg Penybont have a fund available to students in need of extra support
- There are only limited funds in the pot
- Speak to Learner Support if you are in need of this support

## Support available

- advice and guidance on money you are able to claim to support your studies
- a counselling service
- mentoring support
- support with your enrolment



If you live over 3 miles from the campus you can apply for a free bus pass.

## Support before you get to College

As a care experienced young person Coleg Penybont offer support before you get to College

- Informal meetings
- Wellbeing Support



### Useful information

For general information about University life take a look at:

- <https://www.themix.org.uk/>
- <https://www.nus.org.uk/>
- <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/applying-for-university/university-life>
- <https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/university/life/what-university-is-really-like>



Been to College and thinking about the next step? Here we will look at support you can receive if you want to go to University

## Higher Education Bursary

- You are entitled to a Higher Education Bursary
- This is worth £2000
- It is paid by your local Council
- You do not need to pay this back
- Ask you personal advisor about this



The University you are applying to may have its own bursaries or grants to support care experienced young people



If you want to go to a University further afield, go to the Propel website to see what support is offered to care experienced young people.

<https://propel.org.uk/UK/>

## Special Support Grant

This is available to:

- Single parents
- Those on the housing related part of Universal Credit

If you are eligible for this grant you could receive £5,161 per year

## Welsh Government Learning Grant

- The amount you get as a grant will depend on your income
- The higher the income the less you receive!

## Maintenance Loan

- You can apply for a maintenance loan.
- The amount you receive depends on your income
- If you are on a low household income some of the money you receive may also be a grant which means you won't have to pay some of the money back.

HIGHER  
EDUCATION



Thinking of going to University? Here you can get a flavour of what support is available at University South Wales and Cardiff University.

### Nominated person

University of South Wales has a nominated team that can offer support to care experienced young people. Their main jobs are as Student Finance Officers, therefore you can go to meet them without people knowing you are care experienced:

<https://www.southwales.ac.uk/money/additional-support/care-leaver-support/>

Cardiff University offer Pathway programmes which is an alternative to ALevels. More information can be found here <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/part-time-courses-for-adults/pathways-to-a-degree>

## Pre-entry support

If you have said you are care experienced in your application or at your College, the University and/or its partners will:

- Support you to attend open days
- Offer the chance to go to summer schools
- Help with your interview
- Support you with student finance



- Make sure you state on your UCAS application that you are a care experienced young person
- This helps the University give you better support

## On campus support

The amount of support you get depends on how much you need but could include:

- Regular meetings with support staff
- Access to a mental health service
- Access to a wellbeing service
- Study skills support
- Access to 'Big White Wall' - online mental health support

## Money!

There are a number of financial initiatives run by the University to support you:

- The University will support you with ensuring you are getting the correct money from Student Finance
- A bursary- where you could claim up to £1000
- Hardship Fund- for any student if things are really tough financially
- Residential bursary- you could apply to this fund to help towards rent etc
- Books- there is a fund you can apply to for help to pay for essential course books

## Wellbeing

- Going to University can be stressful
- It may involve big changes such as moving to a new area, making new friends etc.
- Make sure you look after your mental health and wellbeing to ensure you keep a positive state of mind
- For wellbeing tips and support go to: <https://platform.org/project/young-people/>

## First Weeks

- Student Services will give a presentation to ALL students stating what support is on offer
- This will include specific support available to care experienced young people.

# UNIVERSITY