

About 24+ Advanced Learning Loans

Bursary Policy

24+ Advanced Learning Loans are one way that students aged 24 or over on 1 August 2013 can fund Level 3 or Level 4 courses or Apprenticeships as these are no longer funded by the government. To apply for a Loan, the student must be accepted onto a course or Apprenticeship programme that has been designated by the Skills Funding Agency as approved for Loans.

A Loan is one way a student can fund their course. There are others, such as paying the fees themselves upfront or in instalments, or via an employer. Student Advisors will give students information about Loans, but the decision about how to pay rests with the student, who can get impartial money advice from the Money Advice Service www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk. 24+ Advanced Learning Loans are different to, and separate from, HE loans.

Financial support – the 24+ Advanced Learning Loans Bursary

Oaklands College has a support fund, managed by Student Advice, to help Loans-funded students who have difficulties meeting the costs of attending their course and/or have additional needs. This bursary cannot be used to pay fees or for essential course items such as equipment or accreditation costs. It can only be used by students who have taken out a 24+ Advanced Learning Loan.

As the fund is limited, it is allocated in the following way, on a 'first come first served' basis:

Support for a Loans-funded student with learning difficulties and disabilities (additional student support)

Following assessment by the Additional Learning Support team, and in line with existing policy, support is available to all Loans-funded students who require it. Should you require an assessment or have any questions related to Additional Learning Support please call 01727 737000 or email info@oaklands.ac.uk.

Support for a Loans-funded student who has difficulty meeting the costs of attending their course, for example, help with childcare and travel (discretionary student support)

Some support is available for non-essential costs such as childcare and travel. This will be means-tested and dependent on eligibility. Support is available for unemployed students who are in receipt of any of the following means-tested benefits Income support; Employment Support Allowance (work related); Job Seekers Allowance; Working Tax Credit; Pension Credit Guarantee. Support may also be available for those on a family income which is below £21,000, with support above that level subject to a decision made by the Student Advice Supervisor.

Apprentices

Apprentices may apply for support, but it is expected by Oaklands College and the Skills Funding Agency that employers of apprentices will normally meet the costs of student support.

Complaints about the bursary

If a student has a complaint about the way their bursary enquiry or application has been dealt with, or about the outcome, they may complain using Oaklands College's complaints procedure. This is available from the college website (www.oaklands.ac.uk). Paper forms are also available from the College reception.

To find out more or to get an application form, contact the student advice team on 01727 737000 or email info@oaklands.ac.uk.

Or see the following website for further details: www.gov.uk/advancedlearningloans



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