**Name of Scheme**

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<th>discretionary Learner Support (dLS) – Residential Bursary Fund (RBF)</th>
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**What does it do?**

The purpose of dLS is to provide exceptional support to learners aged 16 and above, who are experiencing financial difficulty with meeting costs associated with learning. The RBF is designed to provide help to students attending one of 50 colleges offering specialist courses in Agriculture, Art and Design, and Horticulture.

Note: as dLS is managed on a local basis there will be variations in the eligibility, how much will be paid and how to apply. However providers must operate within the LSC National Guidance and Requirements, which sets certain parameters on how funding can be spent.

**Who is eligible?**

Learners studying specialist provision at one of the 50 colleges, on a course that requires a residential element.

**What type of learning is applicable?**

To receive the Residential Bursary Fund, the course must be LSC-funded in Further Education at one of 50 designated colleges (Art and Design, Horticulture, Agriculture).

**How much could the learner receive?**

It is for the 50 designated providers to decide the criteria and procedures for considering applications for support from RBF within the eligibility and administration requirements. They are also responsible for making payments to eligible learners. However, priority must be given to learners who are unable to access relevant learning within daily travel from their home or where the costs of this are prohibitive. RBF have an advised maximum payment of £4,079 within London and £3,458 outside London on a pro-rata basis.

**What can/can’t the funding be used for?**

- RBF can be used to help learners reside in private accommodation as well as in accommodation owned or managed by the designated providers. Learners remain eligible for RBF when they are receiving EMA or ALG.
- Daily travel using RBF must only be considered as a last resort, within the guidelines set by the LSC.

**How does the learner apply?**

The Welfare Officer or Student Support Officer at the college will be able to advise the learner how to apply.

**What are the effects on other sources of funding and benefits?**

- Learners can claim if they also receive grants and funds including: EMA, ALG, Professional and Career Development Loans, C2L and Disability Living Allowance
- Learners who are not on a programme of learning at one of the 50 designated providers in the bursary scheme may be eligible to apply for support from the Residential Support Scheme, if their course is not available locally.
- Prisoners on day release are not eligible for dLS
- Learners on courses that are wholly funded from other sources are NOT eligible
- Any learner on one of the following courses: Learndirect, New Deal programme, Apprenticeship training programme, Work Based Learning course, Adult and Community learning course

**How are the funds administered?**

- LSC National offices allocate funding for discretionary Learner Support to the LSC regions. The regions are then responsible for making funding allocations to the learning providers or the Local Authority in their area.
- Applicants should apply for support directly to their learning providers, who provide support at their discretion and in accordance with the LSC published
**What is the aim?**
The aim of discretionary Learner Support is to increase participation and retention in post-16 education by helping to overcome the financial barriers associated with learning.

**What are the key achievements of the funding?**
During 2005-2007/08 just over 3800 Residential Bursary awards were made to 16-18 year old learners and just over 1,300 to 19+ learners.

**Further Information and Contact Details**
- Learner Support - Information for Providers and Advisers (LSC website)
- Studying away from home – Information for Providers and Advisers (LSC website)
- Information for 14-19 Applicants (Direct.gov website)
- Information for Adult Applicants (Direct.gov website)
- discretionary Learner Support Guidance 2009/10
- LSC Area Details