



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Pennaeth / Principal: Mark Leighfield BA Hons, MSc



Financial Contingency Fund (FCF)

Application guidance notes 2025/26

FCF support is discretionary and not an entitlement, funds are limited, and no awards are guaranteed. Allocations are also subject to any budgetary changes that the Welsh Government may enforce.

Link to the FCF application form

<https://forms.office.com/e/sQLJLmviA>

Before completing your FCF application, it is important that you read these guidance notes. If you do not understand anything or have difficulty in completing your application, please email your questions to our Student Services Team on studentservices@stdavidscollege.ac.uk

Am I eligible?

To be eligible for financial support from the Financial Contingency Fund you must:

- Be in receipt of Educational Maintenance allowance (EMA)
- Have an annual household income of up to £30,000
- Be aged 16 or over on 31st August 2025 and enrolled on a full time, further education course; or a parttime course if you are identified as being in care or a care leaver
- Have a 95% attendance record and adhere to the college's Learner Conduct Rules

Normally reside in the UK or have lived in the UK for 3 years before the start of the course (or qualify as a 'home student' in some other way such as being an EU national or refugee). Unfortunately, we are unable to offer FCF if you are an Asylum Seeker.

If you are **over 19** you would need to apply for the **Welsh Government Learning Grant** – Further Education)

<https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/further-education-funding/welsh-government-learning-grant/how-and-when-to-apply/>

If your circumstances change, for example your course, number of hours of study, childcare arrangements, or personal circumstances, you must let us know.

What do you need financial support with?

Support can be provided for the following:

- Travel costs

College buses are available from Caerphilly, Rhondda Cynon Taff (RCT) and the Vale of Glamorgan. You may be eligible for a free bus pass, which you would need to apply for through the local authority in your area.

If your application with the local authority is declined FCF can support with the full cost of the Bus Pass

If you reside over 3 miles from the college, FCF will fund a monthly bus pass at the cost of £46.00 paid every 4 weeks.

- Assisted Transport

Please liaise with the college ALN team to request support with transport
hhughes@stdavidscollege.ac.uk

- Equipment Grant

The grant will pay towards the cost of buying essential equipment for your course

- Disclosure and Barring Service Check (DBS)

If your course requires a DBS check, the fund can help towards the cost of this.

- Childcare

The Financial Contingency Fund will pay a daily contribution towards childcare costs. (Your child/ren must be with a registered childminder or Nursery.

Please answer all questions to allow us to accurately assess your application

How will I find out if my application is successful?

All communication with you will be by email to your college email account.

What if my application is unsuccessful?

We will send you notification to your college email account.

If you would like to appeal against the decision you have 14 days to do so from the date of the email