

Financial Contingency Fund (FCF)

Good to know: FCF support is discretionary, which means it is not guaranteed. Funds are limited, and awards depend on your circumstances, assessment and available funding. Allocations may also change if Welsh Government budget arrangements change.

Start here

1	Read this guide before you apply.
2	Complete the FCF application form online.

Application link: [Open the FCF application form](#)

If anything is unclear, or if you need help completing the form, please contact the Student Finance Officer.

Student Finance Officer: studentfinance@stdavidscollege.ac.uk

Can I apply?

To be eligible for financial support from the FCF, you must meet the criteria below:

- Be in receipt of Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA).
- Have an annual household income of up to £30,000.
- Be aged 16 or over on 31 August 2025 and enrolled on a full-time further education course, or a part-time course if you are identified as being in care or are a care leaver.
- Have a 95% attendance record and follow 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 another way, such as being an EU national or refugee.

Over 19? You will need to apply for the Welsh Government Learning Grant for Further Education. [View Welsh Government Learning Grant guidance](#)

Tell us if anything changes

Please contact us if your circumstances change. This includes changes to your course, study hours, childcare arrangements, or personal circumstances.

What can FCF help with?

FCF may be able to help with the following costs:

Travel costs

College buses are available from Caerphilly, Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) and the Vale of Glamorgan. You may be eligible for a free bus pass through your local authority. If your local authority application is declined, FCF can support the full cost of the bus pass. If you live over 3 miles from college, FCF will fund a monthly bus pass at £49.00, paid every 4 weeks.

Assisted Transport

Please speak to the ALN team if you need support with assisted transport:
hhughes@stdavidscollege.ac.uk.

Equipment Grant

FCF can help with the cost of essential equipment for your course.

DBS Check

If your course requires a Disclosure and Barring Service check, FCF can help with the cost.

Childcare

FCF can make a daily contribution towards childcare costs. Your child or children must be with a registered childminder or nursery.

Before you submit

Please answer every question on the application form. This helps us assess your application accurately and avoid delays.

What happens next?

Application outcome	All communications will be sent to your college email account.
If unsuccessful	You will be notified by college email. If you want to appeal, you have 14 days from the date of the email.