

CARE LEAVERS' BURSARY

The £3,000 bursary is for eligible apprentices who are in care or are care leavers. It aims to help remove financial barriers to accessing and completing apprenticeships. You will not pay tax or National Insurance on the funds, and if you are claiming benefits, the bursary will not affect them as it is not classed as income.

Eligible apprentices

For an apprentice to be eligible for the care leavers' bursary, you must:

- be aged under 25 at the time you start your apprenticeship
- not have received the care leavers' bursary before
- be either an eligible child, a relevant child or a former relevant child

You should speak to your local authority personal adviser (PA) or social worker for professional advice and information about your leaving care status.

Eligible child definition

This is a young person who:

- is 16 or 17 years old
- has been looked after by a UK local authority or health and social care trust for at least a period of 13 weeks since the age of 14
- is still looked after by a UK local authority or health and social care trust

Relevant child definition

This is a young person who:

- is 16 or 17 years old
- has left care within the UK after their 16th birthday
- was an eligible child before leaving care

Former relevant child definition

This is a young person who is under 25 who was either an eligible or a relevant child before turning 18.



Payment of the bursary

For the payment to be made, you as the eligible apprentice must tell your training provider that you are a care leaver and provide written confirmation from your local authority. You should speak to your local authority personal adviser (PA) or social worker for advice on how to access this confirmation.

Your training provider should give you an opportunity to say if you are a care leaver - if they don't you can share this information with them. You do not have to tell them any details about your care experience. You also have a choice as to whether this information is shared with your employer.

The bursary is paid directly to the apprenticeship training provider in installments, and they must pass it on to you within 30 days of receiving it. The below payment terms to the training provider are based on you remaining on programme, with no breaks in learning.

Payment 1: after 60 days

Payment 2: after 120 days

Payment 3: after 300 days. Where the apprentice is on a foundation apprenticeship, this final £1k payment will be generated 242 days after the apprentice's learning start date

Additional resources

[Amazing Apprenticeships Care Leavers Guide](#)

[Care Leavers Covenant](#)

