

## **Funding For Adult Learners**

### **Funding Your Studies**

We work hard to ensure our courses remain as affordable as possible by utilising all available funding sources. Fees are displayed on the short course factsheets along with the eligibility criteria for any potential additional funding to support your booking.

The fees for the full and part time course can be found at <https://www.myerscough.ac.uk/students/fees-and-finance/>.

The main funding stream that adult (19+) students can access is the Adult Skills Fund (ASF).

Please note that adult learners are defined as students who are 19 years old or older on 31st August at the beginning of the academic year and are enrolled in courses during that academic year.

This funding does not cover students age 19-24 with an active Education Health and Care plan.

The funding relates to the student's age at the start of a programme so students reaching 19 during a 2 year programme remain on the 16-18 funding.

### **What is the purpose of the Adult Skills Fund (ASF)**

The ASF is funding that helps adults to gain the skills they need in order to; retrain and change careers, upskill to progress in a chosen career or to gain qualifications to access higher level learning. Funding is also available to bring communities together which allows free courses to be run which are linked to local needs.

The funding only covers tuition fees however students accessing larger programmes may also be eligible to apply for a bursary ([FE Fees and Finance | Myerscough College](#))

There is specific provision within the funding to provide Inclusive Learning Support to eligible learners. If you have indicated at application that you require support then this will be discussed with you before an offer is made.

### **Who and what can be funded?**

ASF funding is focused on specific provision, for particular groups of learners, and can result in a course being free or a contribution towards the cost being made. It can't be applied to all courses, although the majority of Myerscough's Full and Part Time accredited courses do tend to be covered by the funding. Funding can vary depending on where you live, as Myerscough works between the National Contract and a separate contract for Liverpool and Manchester. See below for a quick overview:

To be eligible for any form of funding discount you must be:

- 19 on or before 31st July of the academic year the course runs in
- UK Citizen / Legal permission to live and work in UK
- Lived in UK for 3 years
- Not attending any other school, college or university, an apprentice or training as part of any full or part time, government funded training programme/ not been enrolled on such a programme during the academic year of the short course (exceptions apply for HE students- please contact the college).
- Not in custody as a prisoner or on remand.
- Have never completed and achieved the same or a very similar qualification with the same exam board.

## **Funding Areas**

Most learners home postcodes will sit within the England funding, however learners in Liverpool and Manchester sit within devolved funding. It is important to understand your funding area as it impacts on what courses are available for funding.

Unfortunately, it is unlikely Myerscough can support funding for learners with a home address outside of England or in a devolved authority area (with the exception of Liverpool City Region or Greater Manchester).

Funding boundaries are not always obvious and towns and cities may be split into different funding areas. To check your funding area please use the postcode checker below. Please remember the courses run from home postcode not the delivery site. This is particularly important at Level Three where some non-devolved learners may not be able to access funding for programmes such as L3 RHS.

[www.skillspostcodecheck.com](http://www.skillspostcodecheck.com)

Fundable postcodes will produce the following codes:

105: Non Devolved- England  
 110: Greater Manchester  
 111: Liverpool City Region

If you live in a different postcode area then it is unlikely that Myerscough will be able to access funding to support your course but please contact the college for further information.

## **Full Funding Eligibility**

If you meet the above criteria and also one or more of the below, then some short courses and most Full and Part Time courses are likely to be fully funded.

## **Level Two and below Courses:**

- Age 19-23 and accessing your first full Level 2 programme (please note this does not apply to part time provision)
- Earning less than £25 000 per year, based on past three months of pay slips or suitable evidence for self employed learners (please note the threshold is £30,600.40 for residents of Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester)
- In receipt of Job Seekers Allowance/ Employment Support Allowance or Universal Credit. (Other government-based benefits may be accepted).
- Unemployed/ not working and undertaking the course in order to support progression into employment. Please note this may only be the first steps towards employment. Employment may be paid or voluntary, for example the course may support volunteering for a park friends group or community project.

## **Level Three Courses:**

- Age 19-23 and accessing your first full Level 3 programme (please note this does not apply to part time provision). Level Three Sport and Public Services qualifications are not covered by this funding.
- Aged 24+ with a non devolved or Liverpool/ Manchester postcode, meeting the low wage or unemployment categories listed within the level 2 criteria and accessing one of the following courses:
  - BTEC Level 3 Advanced Manufacturing Engineering (Motorsports)
  - City and Guilds Level 3 Diploma Suite Agricultural Engineering
  - City & Guilds Level 3 Advanced Technical Diploma in Land and Wildlife Management
- Age 24+ with a Liverpool/ Manchester postcode meeting the low wage or unemployment categories listed within the level 2 criteria and accessing one of the following courses:
  - ABC Level 3 Certificate in Practical Small Animal Care Skills (Animal Training)
  - City & Guilds Level 3 Animal Management
  - City & Guilds Level 3 Advanced Technical Certificate/Diploma/Extended Diploma in Equine Management
  - RHS Level 3 Certificate in Practical Horticulture

## **Co-funding**

In some cases, the government expects learners and employers to share

responsibility for investing in eligible provision and a learner is 'co-funded'. This is generally where the learner is eligible for funding but earns above the wage threshold. It can for short courses, however, apply to all students applying for a specific course.

Where appropriate we have already built co-funding discounts into the course fees for short courses.

Please refer to the fees list - <https://www.myerscough.ac.uk/students/fees-and-finance/> - to identify the additional fees co-funded learners will need to pay.

### **Non- Funded Learners**

Some courses do not hold any government funding and so students will be charged the full fee. In other cases students may not be eligible for any funding, for example if they live in a postcode area where the funding is not approved.

There is a different rate for international applicants.

In some cases learners can apply for an Advanced Learner Loan to cover the cost of their course. More information can be found here.

## **[FE Fees and Finance | Myerscough College](#)**

Not all courses will be eligible for Advanced Learner Loans, especially part time courses for example applicants for the RHS Level Three Horticulture course in Liverpool, living outside of Liverpool and Manchester, would not be eligible to apply for the loan.

### **T Levels**

T levels have been designed and approved for delivery with 16-18 year olds only and this is reflected in the funding. Unfortunately, this means that we are unable to accept adult learners onto these courses. We are working to ensure that there are suitable alternative offers for 19+ learners in the subjects where we are offering T levels. Apprenticeships have no upper age limit and it may be that this is a suitable offer for adult learners wishing to work in a specific industry

### **Charitable Bequests**

Students may also be able to get financial help from charities or other bodies, who have allocated funds to help particular students or courses. A directory of

grant making trusts can normally be found in your local library or online at [www.acf.org.uk](http://www.acf.org.uk).

Grants may be available from any of the following:

- Shepherd Street Trust ([shepherdstreettrust.co.uk](http://shepherdstreettrust.co.uk)) for students under the age of 21 living within 50 miles radius from Preston Town Hall.
- Studley College Trust ([studleytrust.co.uk](http://studleytrust.co.uk)) for students on land based courses.
- The Prince's Trust ([princes-trust.org.uk](http://princes-trust.org.uk)).
- Family action (formerly known as Educational Grants Advisory Service) – Guidance and advice on funding for those studying in post 16 education in the UK – [family-action.org.uk](http://family-action.org.uk).
- City and Guilds (<http://www.cityandguilds.com>) for students who would like the opportunity to study for a City and Guilds / ILM qualification, and who would otherwise be financially unable to