

Discretionary bursaries in the UK-England

- 1. Need/challenge addressed:** Poverty of the student and their family.
- 2. Level of intervention:** At level of the student and at provider level.
- 3. Intensity of the intervention:** Annual one-off payment. Some institutions offer 'one-off' discretionary payments for things like educational trips or a train ticket to attend a university interview.
- 4. Conditions and different steps necessary for the implementation of the measure:** Students apply through the education and training provider if the student and/or their family meet certain criteria, such as family income below a certain amount. The education and training provider sets its own eligibility criteria. The eligibility criteria might be based on, for example: a family's income; parents receiving benefits; or, if the student was in receipt of free school meals. The institution can ask for evidence of a family's income.
- 5. Involvement in decisions about identifying the appropriate type of support, its level and intensity of support:** The education and training provider who decides if the student is eligible for discretionary support.
- 6. Stakeholders involved in the delivery of the measure:** The education and training provider. No other stakeholders are involved, except possibly to verify the facts about the student.
- 7. Overall responsibility for implementation of the measure:** The education and training provider.
- 8. Obstacles in introducing the measure:** Shortage of funds at provider level.
- 9. Monitoring:** It is not monitored.
- 10. Results:** Poor students are participating in education and training and the financial barriers to this are lowered.
- 11. Resources:** In 2015-2016, the total amount of resources for learner support was GBP 174.3 million.
- 12. Scheme continuation:** The Scheme is ongoing.
- 13. Further info:** The funding agency for 16-19 education has stated that the Discretionary Bursaries needs reform but this will not take place in 2015-2016.