

Free College Meals



Information correct at time of print July 2020.

Free food for days you're in college!
A food allowance of £3.50 will be available each day that you are timetabled to attend your course, including work placements and trips. This allowance can be redeemed at any of the cafes and food outlets on the Ipswich Road, Easton and Paston sites.

To make the most of your allowance, you can fill up your water bottle on site for free, and use the money to buy a hot meal, rather than snacks and drinks. The allowance must be used on the day and cannot be 'saved up'. Use it or lose it.

Am I eligible for free college meals?

You must normally be 16-18 and you or your parents must be in receipt of one of the following:

- Income Support
- Universal Credit with a net earned annual income of £7400 or below
- Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related)

- Child Tax Credit (provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC))
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Job Seekers Allowance (Income Based)
- Guaranteed Pension Credit

19-24 year old students who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) will also be eligible if in receipt of one of the above benefits.

How do I apply?

You can apply online for free meals and bursaries – on the college website, look for "Student Finance" page under "Support and Advice".

If you are unable to apply online come and see the Finance Advisers in the Advice Shop, ring us on **01603 773 773** or email **financialadvice@ccn.ac.uk**

Transitional Protection



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If you got free meals at school or college last academic year you can continue while in further education until you reach 19 (or 25 if you have an Education and Health Care Plan). Let us know on the application form and ask your previous education provider to confirm in writing that you were getting free meals.

If I am eligible, how much will I get?

You will receive £3.50 for every day you are in college.

How will it be paid to me?

Your college ID card acts like a contactless payment card; we load £3.50 onto your card each day you are in college. All of the food outlets and cafes on campus have card readers which will scan your card, so you can pay for your meal.

Can I buy whatever I like with the entitlement?

Yes, you can purchase any food or drink but the college hopes that you will select a healthy choice. The Debut café and The Diner both offer hot meal deals for £3.50, and there are sandwiches, snacks and drinks available at all other college food outlets.

What if I want to spend more than £3.50 on food and drink?

You can either pay cash on top of your entitlement or top the card up with extra payments using Wisepay: more details available on the website, look for Cashless Campus on the Student Finance page under Support & Advice.

If I am absent will I get the £3.50 added on to my next payment?

No, your entitlement is only for the day in question and cannot be transferred or refunded.

If I am on placement/work experience or offsite how will it operate?

Drop into the Advice Shop or email us at bursaryadmin@ccn.ac.uk and we will give you a form to complete. Your tutor will also need to sign the form. Payments for lunches will be made into your bank account every half term.

Can I get a meal on a day when I'm not timetabled to be in college?

No, the entitlement is only for the days you are officially in college.

What if I forget to bring my card?

If you forget your card, go to a reception desk to get a temporary badge. Each cafe/restaurant will be able to look up your food allowance on their tills and deduct from the balance any food purchased up to £3.50 for that day.

What if my card doesn't work?

Sometimes your ID card may need scanning again to link it to your printing & free meals accounts. Please bring your card to Advice Shop reception desk.

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