

Criteria and Guidance for Superior STEM Bursary Scheme

Funding Principles	
The overall aim is to transform the lives of the most disadvantaged young people in Dorset helping them to fulfill their potential in STEM subjects – Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics.	1
We want to eliminate the gap between those from deprived backgrounds and those from more affluent backgrounds, and to remove the barriers to education faced by young people who are disadvantaged.	2
We want to ensure that every young person has the same opportunities to participate and benefit from a place in further education, skills and training.	3
We want to help reach those who do not meet the eligibility criteria set by the government or need financial support beyond what a government bursary can offer.	4
Funding is to support STEM-related courses.	5
Applicant Eligibility	
Our Bursary Scheme applies to students attending STEM-related courses at Bournemouth and Poole College and Brockenhurst College.	6
The Fund is open to individuals who wish to study STEM-related course and are one of the following: in receipt of income support; live on a family income of less than £21,000; have caring responsibilities for family members; disabled young people, care leavers or cared for young people.	7
The Fund is open primarily to young people aged 16 – 25 years (inclusive).	8
Students who have previously received a bursary can re-apply for funding in the following year if they will be studying at a higher academic level. Repeat applications will be considered a high priority.	9
Funding for course fees is eligible depending on the age of the applicant.	10
Applicants must evidence financial need; this is overseen by their college and the information is passed to Dorset Community Foundation.	11
Applicants must be supported/approved by the college.	12
Applicants must have lived in Dorset for a minimum of 3 years.	13
The course must start within 2 months of the bursary award.	14
Grants will be awarded up to the value of £1,500.	15
Students will be expected to provide feedback regarding the DCF bursary scheme and detail their progress and future plans, towards the end of their course.	16
Application process	
Before making an application to the DCF Bursary scheme, students should contact their college to see if an application can be made for a government bursary. If the student is not eligible or needs additional financial help, the college can provide an application form for the DCF bursary scheme, or a form can be downloaded from our website.	17
Please make sure you complete sections 1-5 of the form. After we have received your form we will contact your college and they will complete section 6.	18
Please make sure you submit your application by the deadline stated on our website, otherwise we cannot accept your application.	19
Grants may be given towards course fees, travel costs, IT equipment, essential study trips & required equipment/clothing.	20
In order for us to follow our decision-making process, the information given in your application will be shared with our independent panel members and/or donors as appropriate. Panel members are subject to a confidentiality clause as part of their Roles & Responsibilities.	21

For more information on data sharing and storage, please see our Privacy Policy, available on our website.	22
We may receive more applications that we are able to fund so it is important that you provide information about your personal circumstances, why you need financial assistance and what difference a bursary award will make to you.	23
Successful applications are required to sign our terms and conditions before payment can be made.	24
Grant award payments for items that will be provided by the college will usually be made to direct to the college NOT to the individual, such as course fees, transport tickets, study trips and equipment kits. The Student Welfare Officer at your college will be able to tell you when your items will be available.	25
Grant Award payments paid directly to students are based on a pre-agreed quote (web link to item may be sufficient) and receipts must be provided to DCF after purchase or we reserve the right to request the return of funds.	26
The Bursary scheme, awards made from it and project successes will be publicised.	27

If you are unsure about whether you are eligible to apply or have a query about the application process please contact the Foundation on 01202 670815 or email grants@dorsetcf.org

Good luck with your application!