



## Free College Meals

A young person may be eligible for free college meals if they, or their parent/carer, are in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job seeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit  
Provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on  
Paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit  
If you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

## Eligibility and evidence

Taken from Free School Meals ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)) and Free meals in further education funded institutions guide: academic year 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)).

If you would like to apply for this service, complete the application form and return it along with supporting evidence. This will be reviewed by our panel and confirmation of eligibility will be sent to you in writing.

A delay in returning this form with correct supporting evidence may result in a delay in providing a free college meal to the student.

## Supporting Evidence

A student is only eligible to receive a free school meal when a claim for the meal has been made on their behalf and their eligibility, or protected status, has been verified by Camphill Wakefield.



Qualifying Benefit	Qualifying Evidence
Income Support	Most recent letter of award*
Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance	Most recent letter of award*
Income-related Employment and Support Allowance ESA	Most recent letter of award*
Working Tax Credit run-on. Paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit Working Tax Credit is not a qualifying benefit for free meals, and a parent or student in receipt of Working Tax Credits is not entitled to a free meal.	Most recent letter of award*
Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999	A letter from the Home Office stating that they are receiving support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
The guarantee element of Pension Credit	A 'Pension Credit M 1000 Award Notice' clearly showing details of any Guarantee Pension Credit in payment.
Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16 190)	A letter from Jobcentre Plus confirming eligibility or Income Support payment book; A final Tax Credit Award Notice (TC602) from HM Revenue & Customs.
Universal Credit (UC) with net earnings not exceeding the equivalent of £7,400 for each year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)	<p>A copy of their Universal Credit award statement (from their most recent assessment period(s) - going back a maximum of three assessment periods).</p> <p>The three relevant Universal Credit assessment periods would be the three complete assessment periods which immediately preceded the date on which the parent requests free school meals.</p> <p>Your statement MUST show the following: Name (up to student's 19th birthday, this will be parent/carer name), address, Date, Breakdown of payment (housing and child elements).</p> <p><b>MOST IMPORTANTLY:</b> Take Home pay **, Full deductions section and Total payment for the month.</p>

\* A copy of your most recent award letter, this can either be a scan or photograph, or screenshots from your online Government Gateway account. The information MUST show the following: Name and address to Date and Earned income for ear 2026/2027.

\*\*If you are unable to see Take Home Pay, click on the Plus Sign beside "Other support you may be able to get". This should open up a screen and provide the Take Home Pay amount.