

## Bursary and Finance information

### Approach Social Work bursary

As student trainees, year one participants receive a bursary to contribute to living and travel costs associated with completing the first year of the programme. It is expected that individuals starting Approach Social Work have set aside adequate financial provision to cover any additional costs that may be incurred throughout the duration of the programme.

The bursary is paid in **13 monthly instalments**:

- Participants based **outside of London** local authorities will be paid a total bursary of **£18,000**.
- Participants **based in London** local authorities will be paid a total bursary of **£20,000**.

The bursary is usually paid on the 1st working day of each month.

### Effect on other benefits

The bursary may affect your eligibility for other benefits or financial support. Below is an overview of what you may or may not be able to claim. Please note this is only intended to give an indication and participants are expected to do their own research into different benefits and eligibility.

Financial support	Eligible in year 1
Student loan through Student Finance England	No
Universal credit	Unlikely
30 hours free childcare	No
Carers allowance	No
Council tax discount	Yes
Disabled student's allowance (DSA)	Yes (if applicable)

## Additional financial assistance

Frontline recognises that in exceptional circumstances additional financial assistance may be required. There are a limited number of financial assistance schemes that participants can apply for during their first year, and more information can be found in the [Bursary and financial policy](#). There is no guarantee of the outcome of applications and these funds **should not be relied upon** in advance of starting the programme.

## Years two and three

No bursary is paid in year two and year three of Approach Social Work when participants are employees of the local authority and will be receiving a salary.

Due to salary payments being subject to local authority payment dates, you will need to factor in a transition from bursary to salary and make provisions for this. Most local authorities start their pay run from the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month onwards.

For more detail, please refer to the [Pay, progression and financial support page](#) of the Frontline website and the [Bursary and financial policy](#).

## FAQs

How much can I receive from the Frontline hardship fund, when can I apply?

- You can apply for up to £1,000 from the hardship fund, depending on your individual circumstances and the nature of your application. Applications typically open before the programme begins.

Are transport and commuting costs covered?

- Fuel costs for home visits are covered in line with your local authority's policies. General commuting costs are expected to be covered from your bursary.

When can eligible applicants apply for disabled student's allowance? (DSA)

- You can apply as soon as you receive an email inviting you to register with Lancaster University and create your student number. The team at Lancaster can support you: [disability@thefrontline.org.uk](mailto:disability@thefrontline.org.uk)

Can I work alongside the programme?

- While it is possible, it is strongly advised against. The programme is full-time and your time outside of working hours will be needed for academic work, rest and personal wellbeing.

What is the difference between the inner and outer London bursary?

- All London boroughs receive a London-weighted bursary. Local authorities outside of London receive the standard bursary rate. If you are unsure which applied to you please contact [recruitment@thefrontline.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@thefrontline.org.uk)

Can I get proof of funds before the programme starts?

- Yes – before the programme begins Frontline can provide documentation confirming your bursary and student status as proof of predicted funds. We can also provide a breakdown of your bursary payments if required.

Who should I contact about national insurance contributions?

- For questions about NI you should contact HM Revenue and Customers (HMRC) or speak with your local authority.