

Free Meals in Further Education

What is it?

Woking College offers Free Meals to eligible students for each day they are attending their study programme.

Who is eligible for Free Meals?

To qualify students must be aged 16 – 19 and meet the residency requirements. Students aged over 19 who are continuing with a study programme that they started before they turned 19 or who have an education, health and care plan (EHCP), are also eligible for a free meal where they meet the criteria.

Free meals in further education are available to students in receipt of, or whose household is in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Households in receipt of the following benefits may also be entitled:

- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit

A student is only eligible to receive a free meal when they, or a parent or carer on their behalf, has successfully applied for free meals at Woking College.

Please note that transitional protection will end on 31 August 2026, and all claims for the 2026–27 academic year will be reassessed. Free meal support will cease for those who no longer meet the eligibility criteria, while some households may now become eligible even if they were not previously.

How does it work?

Eligible students will be allocated a credit of £5.00 per day to cover the cost of a meal from the College canteen. This credit will be loaded onto the students' College ID Card to 'pay' for their meal. The credit cannot be carried over and will be lost if not used.

Eligible students participating in a college trip will be able to pre order a meal to take home the night before, and for students participating in a work experience placement, organised through the college, a daily lunch allowance will be made available.

Please speak to the Catering Team if you have any dietary requirements and they will be happy to assist you.

For further information please visit: [Free meals in further education funded institutions guide: academic year 2026 to 2027 - GOV.UK](#)