

## PROFESSIONAL

### Financial Support Package

The PROFESSIONAL financial support package is designed to lighten the financial burden on certain students who are in need of professional support. The professional support options include counselling, mentoring, Learning Assistance and diagnoses of disability. The aim of the package is to facilitate or enable access to such services when appropriate. This package is applicable for any UK undergraduate student of the College who started after 2019 and who are considered by the Office for Students, the Higher Education regulator, to be at a potential disadvantage for any of the reasons tabulated below.

disability	a student who has a disability, understood in the broad sense often used by the Office for Students, which means the term includes people with on-going mental health conditions or with Specific Learning Difficulties
socio-economic	a student whose home address at the point of application was in decile 1-4 of the national Indices of Multiple Deprivation databases <sup>1</sup>
Low HE access area	a student who was younger than 21 when they started their studies and whose home address at the point of application was in quintile 1 or 2 according to the national POLAR4 database and/or the TUNDRA MSOA database <sup>2</sup>

Support from Professional is not normally available to displace money that would normally be provided by a Disabled Students Allowance grant and can only be towards costs associated with the current academic year.

The money will be drawn from a College fund set aside for this purpose. Annual budget limits are set in line with Access & Participation plans.

Decisions on awards are made by the College's Financial Support Panel to qualifying students where an appropriate member of staff has recommended it and within the following limits.

type of support	staff who recommend(s)	limits
counselling	College chaplains	normally restricted to half of the costs of up to six sessions from a counsellor (or other similar professional) approved by the Student Welfare Manager

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<sup>1</sup> You can use websites to determine which quintile your postcode falls into.

For POLAR4 and TUNDRA MSOA, on [this website](#) click the "I have read and understood the above text" and in the next window enter your postcode and "View results". You are eligible if your postcode is in quintile 1 or 2 for POLAR4 and/or TUNDRA MSOA.

<sup>2</sup> For Indices of Multiple Deprivation, you can use [this website](#). Enter your postcode into the box, and click "Get deprivation data". Wait a second then download your custom deprivation data by clicking on the xlsx or csv icon. This should open a spreadsheet. Your IMD decile is shown in column F. You are eligible if your postcode is in IMD decile 1, 2, 3 or 4.

learning assistance	Student Welfare Manager	up to four sessions with a qualified Learning Assistance tutor approved by the Student Welfare Manager
specialist study support mentoring	Student Welfare Manager	normally restricted to half of the costs of up to six sessions from a counsellor (or other similar professional) approved by the Student Welfare Manager
mentoring	College chaplains or Programme Leader	normally restricted to half of the costs of up to two sessions with an appropriate mentor approved by the Student Welfare Manager

The staff who recommend inform the panel of all recommendations that they make. The panel is responsible for maintaining a list of recommendable professionals.

Students are informed of the PROFESSIONAL package on a VLE page that is accessible to all undergraduate Higher Education students.

All eligible students are invited to apply. The member of staff will respond within the normal time expectations of the College.

Any money given is a grant, not a loan, and will be credited directly to the student's bank account as a reimbursement once proof of payment, such as a receipt, has been provided to [financialsupport@moorlands.ac.uk](mailto:financialsupport@moorlands.ac.uk). Direct payment to the service provider can be arranged if necessary. Receipt of support from the PROFESSIONAL package will have no impact on eligibility to apply for financial support under other packages.

There are no reporting requirements on recipients of support from PROFESSIONAL.

PROFESSIONAL was approved by the Executive Leadership Team of Moorlands College, 21 September 2020.