

# Free Meals

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## INTRODUCTION

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St Helens Chamber provides free meals to all eligible students.

### **Students entitled to free meals can claim the following**

- £3 a day meal voucher for each full day the student attends
- £3 a day cash for each full day the student is out on work experience
- Where training takes place away from our main training centre a cash equivalent of £3 a day will be given.

## ELIGIBILITY

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Students aged between 19 and 25 who are subject to a Learning Difficulty Assessment (LDA) or Education Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) and students aged between 16 and 18 on 31 August 2017 are also entitled to a free meal while attending their provision if they meet the eligibility criteria.

**Students may be eligible for free meals if students or their parents or carers receive and can evidence one of the following:**

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC))
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after someone stops qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- During the initial roll out of the benefit, Universal Credit

**You cannot claim free meals if you are in receipt of working family tax credits.**

## HEALTHY EATING

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St Helens Chamber wants to promote healthy eating and the Chamber cafe Le Brunch, provides a wide range of healthy hot and cold meal choices. Should you require support or information on healthy eating please ask your Career Coach who will be happy to assist you.

## HOW TO APPLY

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If you feel you are eligible for free meals support from St Helens Chamber please ask for a free meals application form from your Career Coach.

Please return your completed form along with relevant evidence to the Work Ready team leader, who will inform you of the outcome of your application in writing within 3 working days.

## APPEALS

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If a student is unhappy with any element of the financial support, they should contact their tutor in the first instance and if still not satisfied they should contact Laura Brogden, Work Ready Team Leader on 01744 742011 who will give a response within five working days.