



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 you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit  
 Universal Credit with net earned annual income not exceeding the equivalent of £7,400 per annum (after tax and not including any benefits received).

Please note that Working Tax Credit is not a qualifying benefit for free meals, and a parent or learner in receipt of Working Tax Credits only, is not entitled to a free meal.

Transitional protection arrangements to Universal credit are:

Learners already receiving free meals on or after 1 April 2018 continue to be eligible to receive free meals up until March 2025 and then until the end of their phase of education. This also applies to students who were eligible for free school meals (FSM) prior to moving into further education provision.

A Learner who becomes eligible for free meals after the threshold has been introduced will also continue to receive free meals until March 2025 and then until the end of the course they are enrolled on. This will apply even if they subsequently become ineligible during this period because their household earnings rise above the new threshold.

### 2.3 Residency

Students must also satisfy the residency criteria set out in the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Funding regulation guidance 2023 to 2024 academic year as detailed below:

A person on the 'relevant date'<sup>1</sup> who is 'settled' in the UK, and who has been ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands (that is including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) for the three years preceding the 'relevant date'. 'Settled' means having either indefinite leave to enter or remain (ILE/ILR), being an Irish citizen











**Learner Declaration**

I declare that the information on this form is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.



**Office Use Only**

<b>Eligibility Criteria</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Evidence seen and copy taken (originals returned)</b>
<b>Age</b>			
Learner aged 16, 17 or 18 on 31st August 2023)			<i>Not needed</i>
Learners aged 19+ continuing on a study programme commenced aged 16-19 or			<i>Not needed</i>
Learner aged 19-25 on 31 August 2023 and has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).			<i>Not needed</i>
<b>Residency</b>			
Declared that applicant satisfies the residency criteria set out by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) – see section 2.3 of the Provision of Free meals policy.			<i>Not needed</i>
<b>Eligible Benefits</b>			
Income Support			
Income-based Jobseekers Allowance			
Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)			



