Eligibility criteria for subsidised and free bursary places

LifeLab is keen to enable all students to be able to access the Experience Medicine programme. To enable this, we have a broad range of eligibility criteria for subsidised or free bursary places.

List 1:

If you meet one of these criteria you would be eligible for a bursary place which covers the full cost of the course and transport

- Have been eligible for Free School Meals whilst at secondary school
- Parents, guardian or self are currently in receipt of a means tested benefit.
- Live in an IMD quintile 1 area as defined by your home postcode
- Have been looked after or in care
- Are a young carer

List 2:

If you meet one of these criteria you would be eligible for a subsidised place which is a 50% discount (cost of course would be £200):

- First in family to attend university in UK or overseas
- Are from Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showmen and Boater (GTRSB) communities
- Are a Refugee who has been granted refugee status by the UK Home Office
- Have a parent or carer who currently serves in the UK Armed Forces, or who has done so in the past
- Live in an area designated 'LOW' on Sutton Trust Opportunity Index
- Attend a school with below 40% L5 attainment in English and Maths
- Attend a school with below 40% Attainment 8
- Attend a school where below 80% students stay in education/training post-16

List 3:

If you meet three of these criteria you would be eligible for a subsidised place which is a 50% discount (cost of course would be £200):

- Attend a non-selective state school
- Attend a LifeLab partner school (a school who has visited LifeLab in last 3 years)
- Are home-educated
- Live in an IMD quintile 1 or 2 area as defined by your home postcode
- Attend a school in an IMD quintile 1 or 2 area as defined by school postcode
- Live in an area designated 'below average' on Sutton Trust Opportunity Index
- Attend a school with below national average % L5 attainment in English and Maths
- Attend a school with below national average % Attainment 8
- Attend a school where below national average % students stay in education/training post-16
- Attend a school with a POLAR score of 1 or 2 as determined by Office for Students
- Attend a school with a TUNDRA score of 1 or 2 (either at LSOA or MSOA level) as determined by Office for Students
- Other extenuating circumstances

How we assess school and neighbourhood eligibility:

These criteria will be assessed using published government data on school attainment and progression to higher education and IMD data.

You can check the information for your area using these websites

IMD: Local Deprivation Explorer 2025

Sutton Trust Opportunity Index: Opportunity Index Interactive Map - The Sutton Trust

School attainment data: https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/

Office for students data: Search by postcode - Office for Students

How we assess the other criteria

All other criteria will be confirmed by your current school. You will be asked to provide contact details for your tutor or Head of Year as part of the application process.

Should you be home educated, we will ask your parent or carer to confirm this information.