

South Devon College

Transport Guidelines 2023-2024

South Devon College aims to remove all transport barriers for students wherever possible. Our SDC Travel Scheme offers travel passes to all students and staff.

Please note that the bursary funds are managed in line with Government guidance, this can be found here; <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/16-to-19-education-financial-support-for-students>

1. SDC Travel Pass Offer

We are delighted to announce that, working in partnership with Stagecoach, an exclusive bus pass offer is available for all students and staff, offering unlimited travel 24/7 on the Stagecoach network within the Torbay or South West zone throughout the academic year.

1.1 Free Bus Pass

High School and 16-18 full time FE students are eligible for free travel if their earned household income is under £25,000 and household savings/bank balance of under £30,000. 19+ learners are eligible for free travel if their earned income is under £35,000. Students must fully complete a Bursary application form and must provide evidence of household income to be eligible for support. Examples of income evidence can be found on the Bursary application form. The income assessed is that of their parents/guardians or whoever financially supports them. If the student lives alone and is on Income Support, they also qualify for travel support. Students who are in care or are classed as 'care leavers' are also eligible for travel support, Social Services/Social Worker evidence must be submitted as evidence. Adult learners can also apply for travel support by applying for the Adult Bursary Fund. This fund can award petrol money or a travel pass, depending upon the amount awarded to the learner. Those who do not qualify for bursary support but are in financial hardship can apply to the college charity, Friends of South Devon, for support.

1.2 Discounted Bus Pass

Anyone who does not qualify for travel support can apply for the SDC Travel Pass which is available at a heavily discounted cost. The Stagecoach passes are valid 1st Sept- 7th July- Torbay Zone pass costs £450.00 (£150.00 a term) and South West Zone pass will cost £690.00 (£230.00 a term). Ferry passes are also available at a cost of £210.00 (£70.00 a term) and Train Passes are £660.00 (£230.00 a term).

These can be paid by; cheque payable to South Devon College, cash paid to the Funding & Transport Team in the Helpzone, by 10x Direct Debit instalments + £15 admin fee (if set up before July as the final payment must be made in April 2024) and therefore the later the application, the fewer instalments available and therefore the

higher the instalments) Annual and termly bus passes can also be purchased through our Online Store <http://shop.southdevon.ac.uk/>

2. Types of Bus Pass Available:

The type of bus pass issued is dependent upon where the student lives, there are several types including two Stagecoach passes or Ferry passes. In exceptional, reasonable, and acceptable circumstances, the College may be able to provide a train pass where necessary (subject to reasonable grounds and Funding & Transport Senior Co-ordinator authorisation).

3. How to apply:

Students can obtain the Transport application form or apply for the bursary online. Alternatively paper forms of both can be collected from Helpzone at our Vantage Point Campus. More transport information can also be found online, <https://www.southdevon.ac.uk/help-advice/travel-support> From 30th May 2023. Students paying in full or termly for their bus pass can also do so through our Online Store (address stated in 1.2)

All application forms must be returned to:

Funding and Transport Team

South Devon College
Long Road
Paignton
Devon
TQ4 7EJ

4. Benefits of the SDC Travel Pass

Any South Devon College student with a valid Stagecoach SDC Travel Pass will be able to travel on any Stagecoach bus in their area 24/7 for free. The pass offers unlimited travel in the Torbay or South West Zones, depending upon the student's hometown. The passes are valid from 1st September 2023 until 7th July 2024. Students receiving a free Torbay Zone bus pass can choose to upgrade their pass to a South West Zone pass by paying £240.00 (3 termly payments of £80.00), this will extend the areas they can travel as far as South Brent, Ivybridge, Plymouth, Kingsbridge, Chudleigh, Ashburton, Buckfastleigh and Exeter.

5. Taxi Support for 16-18 Full Time FE Students

Taxis may be provided for students based on medical grounds if they are unable to use public transport. Taxi provisions are assessed and provided by the student's local authority, Torbay Council or Devon County Council. Decisions are made by the Local Council, not South Devon College. Standard costs apply, if household income is below £25,000 a year and there are household savings/bank balance of under £30,000, the student can apply to the 16-18 Bursary Fund and the taxi will be free to

the student and the Bursary Fund will pay directly for the taxi. If income is above £25,000 then the student is required to pay a £450.00 contribution towards the taxi and South Devon College will fund the rest. The student pays SDC and SDC will pay for the taxi charge in full directly to Torbay or Devon County Council.

To apply for a taxi the student can indicate on the SDC Travel Application Form/Bursary form that they require a taxi. SDC will then issue the student with the relevant forms and will liaise with the Local Authority's provider to arrange the taxi and payment etc.

South Devon College will support the learner's applications to their Local Authority as much as possible. Families are encouraged to contact the Helpzone if they have any queries or require support.

6. Travel Passes

Our SDC Torbay Zone & South West Zone Bus Passes are termly printed passes which can either be posted out or collected from Helpzone 2 weeks before the valid from date. There is a charge of £5.00 per re-print for lost passes. The student must pay this before it can be printed. Ferry & Train passes are ordered through Devon County Council and are posted out directly to the learner's home address.

- All lost Stagecoach passes are dealt with by the Helpzone
- All non-Stagecoach passes are issued through Devon County Council and therefore any lost passes are re-printed by DCC. These students must apply for a replacement pass using the online service found on this web page: http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/learningschools/getting_to_school/school_transport/trans-replacing_your_pass.htm

7. Cancellations and Refunds

To cancel a travel pass and payments, the pass must first be returned to the Funding and Transport Senior Co-ordinator or other Helpzone staff. Instruction to cancel any further direct debit payments will then be made to the Finance team. Refunds and credits may only be issued for whole, unused months. Therefore, if a bus pass is returned during December, only payments for January onwards can be cancelled or refunded. The cost of a travel pass can be split into a maximum of 10x Direct Debit instalments. No refunds are available for the Summer Term whatsoever. Any refunds throughout the year are at the discretion of the Funding and Transport Senior Co-ordinator and Finance department, due to exceptional circumstances only.

8. Code of Conduct

South Devon College students must abide by the South Devon College Code of Conduct. This can be found on the SDC website, on the Travel page. By applying for

travel support, the learner is agreeing to abide by this, as stated on the application form.

Failure to adhere to the terms of the code of conduct may result in the pass being confiscated and the South Devon College disciplinary procedure may be brought against you.

9. Withholding Passes

South Devon College may withhold printing a pass if a student's attendance is considered poor. If a tutor requests this or if the Funding and Transport Senior Co-ordinator believes that the student has left their course. If the student has paid for the bus pass, then a refund/Direct Debit cancellation will then be processed in due course, if applicable.

10. How to Contact the Helpzone Transport and Funding Team

The Helpzone is located on Level 3 of the *Vantage Point* Paignton Campus. All Helpzone staff are trained to deal with transport related queries and can refer queries accordingly. The Helpzone Freephone number is 08000 380123.

Transport enquiries can also be sent to: transport@southdevon.ac.uk or enquiries@southdevon.ac.uk

Further information and the Transport and Bursary application forms can be found on our Transport web page: <https://www.southdevon.ac.uk/help-advice/travel-support> and <http://www.southdevon.ac.uk/about-us/financial-support>