

Support for Care Leavers

Financial support

Access Bursary

We know that financial arrangements can be a concern, and so we are pleased to be able to guarantee an Access bursary of at least £1,000 per year to anyone with confirmed care leaver status (see above for details).

Anyone with a background in care can also be considered for an Access Bursary, depending on their circumstances.

In addition, the University of Edinburgh has other funding available which you may be entitled to:

Scotland Accommodation Bursary

Accommodation bursaries are available to assist students from Scotland with living costs during their undergraduate study. This bursary scheme reflects the University's commitment to widening access to Scotland domiciled students.

The University of Edinburgh Bursary

The University of Edinburgh Bursary provides the most generous bursary support of any UK university for those with a family income of less than £16,000. Bursaries of between £500 and £7,000 are being offered to undergraduate students from England, Wales and Northern Ireland who are liable for the £9,000 tuition fee.

Accommodation Guarantee

We guarantee to find a place in University accommodation for any care leaver who wishes to take this up. Further information about the accommodation available and the costs involved, are available on the Accommodation Services website (details below).

In addition, we know that some care leavers may wish to stay in Edinburgh during the holidays, and we guarantee to find accommodation for them, 365 days per year if necessary.

Student Support Services

There is a wide variety of support available to students at the University of Edinburgh including the student disability service and the student counselling service. The Widening Participation team will be able to help you access any specific assistance that you need.

What Care Leavers say about the University of Edinburgh

"Thank you for contacting me as this is all quite unbelievable for me, still hasn't sunk in that I've come this far."

"...I really want to thank you again for all your research and help that you have done for me."

"I just feel like Edinburgh is going to give me some of the best years of my life ever."

Contact and links

For further details about the support available at the University of Edinburgh for care leavers and those with a background in care, please contact our Widening Participation team:

Email: wpteam@ed.ac.uk
Telephone: 0131 650 4360

Information can also be found at:

The University of Edinburgh website:
www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment/care-leavers

Student Recruitment and Admissions website:
www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment

Widening Participation website:
www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment/widening-participation

Scholarships and Student Finance Office website:
www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-funding

Accommodation Services website:
www.accom.ed.ac.uk

If you require this document in an alternative format, such as large print or a coloured background, please contact us.

The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body, registered in Scotland. Registration number SC005336.



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH



Supporting Care Leavers into Higher Education



The University of Edinburgh

Founded in 1583, the University of Edinburgh has a long and established history as a world-leader in teaching and research.

We are renowned for the quality of our degree programmes, the broad academic profile of our staff and our extensive facilities.

We offer over 500 undergraduate degrees so the range and choice of subjects available is vast.

With over 30,000 students from more than 140 different countries, the University of Edinburgh is both the largest university in Scotland and one of the most multicultural.

Committed to Care Leavers

We know that coming to university can be a daunting prospect, and we want to do everything we can to make it easier for you.

At the University of Edinburgh, we welcome applications from talented students with a background in care, and we are committed to doing all we can to help you apply to, and successfully study at, the University.

We can give you advice and guidance to help you through the application process, and we can offer you support once you join the University.



Definitions

Background in care - anyone who has been in the care of a local authority for at least 13 weeks, whether away from home or in the home, will be considered to have a background in care, and therefore be eligible for support.

Care leaver - a care leaver is defined as a person aged 25 or under, who has been looked after away from home by a local authority for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14; and who was looked after away from home by the local authority at school-leaving age or after that date.



Pledge to Care Leavers

The University aims to offer a place to any care leaver (see definition above) who meets the minimum entry requirements for the course to which they have applied, where this is possible.

If you have indicated on your UCAS application that you have been in care, the relevant admissions office will contact you to ask whether you wish your application to be considered under the terms of the pledge.

In order for your care leaver status to be taken into account when your application is considered, you will be asked to provide evidence that you meet the definition of a care leaver. This will be in the form of a letter from your social worker or head teacher.

If you do not meet our definition of a care leaver, or if you do not wish to have your application considered under the terms of the pledge, your application will still be considered through our normal processes.



How we can help you

Before you apply

Our Widening Participation team will be happy to give you general advice about studying at a university, choosing a course, understanding entry requirements, how to access student finance, and how to make an effective application.

Contact information is provided on the back.

Support through the application process

If you have indicated on your UCAS application form that you have a background in care, a member of the team will contact you confidentially, to let you know about the help that is available.

They can help you fill in applications, and can help you to contact other University departments such as Scholarships and Student Funding, the Student Disability Service or Accommodation.

With your permission, they will also liaise with your Local Authority to ensure a smooth transition into university life.

You will be able to access support from the Widening Participation team throughout your time as a student at the University of Edinburgh, if you wish.