

CARE LEAVERS GUIDE TO UNIVERSITY

2022/23





FOREWORD BY RACHEL COLE OPERATIONS DIRECTOR FOR FOSTERTALK

I am both proud and saddened to be sharing this report with you. Firstly proud because at FosterTalk our mission is to help create better outcomes from families and young people, and so we've created this report in what we hope will be a guide to those young people considering or about to embark on the chapter of their lives and venture off to university, foster carers providing support to those young people, and also the universities themselves.

However, by creating this guide, it has highlighted the challenges, obstacles and issues that still need to be tackled to help facilitate better outcomes for young people who have been in care. Currently, when a young person reaches the age of 18, unless there are extenuating circumstances, they leave the stability and care of a foster home, and this in itself can be a daunting situation, as the stories we have shared in this report from those with lived experiences, highlights.

We also hope this guide will help facilitate conversations and collaborations around how we can collectively work together as a fostering community to help achieve greater equity and equality for young care leavers. Often those who went into care in the first instance, faced some element of trauma, isolation or rejection, and we know from listening to these young people, that leaving care requires support and preparation. Going to university throws up a whole new set of challenges in itself, which can amplify the obstacles to be overcome.

In pulling together the research for this guide, I would like to say thank you to all the universities that contributed with information about their support services for care leavers. While the types of support is varied and wide ranging, it has also highlighted the breadth and lack of standardisation of support provided by universities. More about this can be read in the summary of the research provided on page xx. I hope that universities will find this comparison useful and provide some food for thought on other areas they may adopt, if they do not already do so.

To all those young people about to go to university, I wish the very best of luck. To those carers who have supported them to get to this point, thank you for everything you have done. And to the universities, please remember they are still young people and help support, guide and safeguard them, as they venture out into the big wide world



MARCUS PHOENIX SHARES HIS STORY AS A CARE LEAVER GOING TO UNIVERSITY

University can be a major step for any young person, but for care leavers, it can be filled with extra trepidation as Marcus Pheonix, a second year student at Teeside University and care leaver explains.

Here's his story:

I had been in and out of care as a child and had never really settled anywhere. I was born in Yemen and moved to the UK when I was 11 but things weren't great at home with my father and I carry a lot of traumatic memories and experiences.

So when I started at university, I didn't have a parental role model to help guide me. There wasn't someone who had been to university and could help me prepare with both the practical and emotional side of things. But because I had lived on my own for a few years before becoming a student, I knew how to take care of myself. I saved as much money as I could beforehand, just to be able to afford some of the basics like bedding, cooking utensils, things to help make my bedroom feel a little more homely, as well as consider the cost of Freshers Week. It's a big time in the social calendar for a new student, and obviously I wanted to be able to get out and meet people, go to events and nights out, and be part of everything, not segregated because of financial constraints.

I do get some enhanced support from the university with things like being able to stay in my student accommodation all year round. That first break at Christmas, when everyone was leaving to go home to their families, was really hard to take.

Which is why the biggest support I urge universities to look at providing is counselling. I've had to pay for private counselling which I've really needed to help me deal with many of the challenges university life has thrown at me. I don't have a family support network so when I've faced bullying and gossip because other students see me as different, I originally turned to other student support groups. But I've found that this approach can actually make things worse and I've needed another avenue to go down for help; someone outside of the student and university world.

Having good mental health is so important. If it's not right, then you can't focus on your studies, you can easily become isolated and not want to socialise, and you feel less motivated to get a job.

I've had to get a part time job to help fund the private counselling I have needed. However, I do receive some brilliant support from the team at EPIC Futures, which is a programme set up to help young people aspiring to be an entrepreneur to set up their own business. I started Candy Castle, a 3D animation company, through the scheme, and alongside my studies, I'm trying to make money through the skills I have, to help support my studies and even one day, have the essence of a business I can make bigger and better after I graduate. But starting a business is hard work while you're trying to do other things, and so the part-time job has been needed to fill the gap. While other students may get top-ups to their student loans from family, I have to be completely self-sufficient, in all aspects of student life.





TIANNA WEIR MARKETING & RESEARCH EXECUTIVE FOR FOSTERTALK

We have seen great strides in recent years in terms of support available to care experienced students. However, there is still a long journey ahead. Supporting and encouraging young people to pursue their goals and career aspirations is absolutely essential to contributing to their self-esteem, sense of identity and can help teach them a whole new range of life and independent living skills.

From undertaking this research three key issues stood out:

01

If support is offered, it needs to be continuous

Many students commented that while during the initial stages of joining university they received great support, after the settling in period, this seemed to fade and cause issues such as demotivation and lack of direction.

02

Accommodation is key

Giving students access to a safe and warm space throughout the entire year is invaluable to young people as many worry about where they will be able to stay during the holidays. Having a space to call their own and know they can always go back to, is of great importance since they may have not always felt this sense of security.

03

Build communities

While it is fantastic to have a range of support packages available, creating a sense of community would also have a big impact. Enabling the students to have opportunities to connect with one another and build bonds rather than only reporting to those who are in a position of authority to them, can help break down barriers and allow them to feel comfortable in their new environments.



Unite
Foundation



UNITE FOUNDATION FOSTER TALK UNIVERSITY GUIDE

The Unite Foundation delivers a unique university accommodation scholarship for care leavers and estranged students across the UK. The scholarship takes care of students' accommodation and bills, covering up to 3 full years of study.

We provide scholarships for around 80 new students across the country each year and we currently work with 26 universities across England and Scotland. Recent research showed the impact of our scholarships on student progression and outcomes, with Unite Foundation students achieving a 'good degree' (2.1 or 1st) within 3 percentage points of non-care leavers.

Alongside the scholarship we also run the This is Us Community, a dedicated and safe online space for all estranged and care experienced students. This is Us Community is not limited to those on the scholarship, we encourage all care experienced and estranged students in UK Higher Education to join and connect with their peers. Find out more at <https://thisisusatuni.mn.co/>

To find out more about the scholarship please visit www.thisisusatuni.org or email us on info@unitefoundation.org.uk

SUMMARY TABLE HIGHLIGHTING THE SUPPORT PROVIDED BY EACH UNIVERSITY

University	Support Available								
	Year round accommodation	Named contact throughout study	Care leaver bursary	Welcome pack	Graduation pack	Members of NNECL	Outreach programmes	Offer UNITE Scholarship (or financial aid towards halls)	Guarantor support
Bath Spa University	x	x			x	x			
Bishop Grosseteste University	x	x	x	x	x	x			x
Brunel University London	x	x	x	x					
Canterbury Christ Church University	x	x	x		x				
Coventry University	x	x			x			x	
De Montfort University	x	x	x	x	x			x	
Edge Hill University	x	x	x						
Falmouth University	x			x		x		x	
Harper Adams University	x	x				x			
Kings College London	x	x	x				x		
Kingston University	x	x	x	x		x		x	
Lancaster University	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Leeds Arts University	x	x					x		
Leeds Beckett University	x	x	x				x		
Leeds Trinity University	x	x	x				x		
Liverpool John Moores University	x	x	x	x					
London Metropolitan University	x	x	x		x	x			
London South Bank University	x	x	x						

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University	Support Available								
	Year round accommodation	Named contact throughout study	Care leaver bursary	Welcome pack	Graduation pack	Members of NNECL	Outreach programmes	Offer UNITE Scholarship (or financial aid towards halls)	Guarantor support
Newcastle University	x	x	x	x		x			
Newman University	x								
Nottingham Trent University	x	x	x			x	x	x	
Oxford Brookes University	x	x	x			x	x		
Queen Mary, University of London		x	x					x	
Ravensbourne University London		x	x			x			
Roehampton University	x	x	x	x		x			
Royal Agricultural University			x			x			
Saint Mary's University, Twickenham	x	x	x			x	x		
Sheffield Hallam University	x	x	x			x	x	x	
SOAS University of London	x		x	x			x		
Southampton Solent University	x	x	x			x			
Staffordshire University	x	x			x	x	x		
Teesside University	x		x			x			
University for the Creative Arts	x	x	x			x	x		
University of Bath	x	x	x	x	x				
University of Birmingham	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	

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University	Support Available								
	Year round accommodation	Named contact throughout study	Care leaver bursary	Welcome pack	Graduation pack	Members of NNECL	Outreach programmes	Offer UNITE Scholarship (or financial aid towards halls)	Guarantor support
University of Bradford	x	x	x			x			
University of Brighton	x	x	x	x		x			
University of Bristol	x	x	x	x		x			
University of Cambridge	x	x	x			x			
University of Central Lancashire	x	x	x	x		x			
University of Chester	x	x	x						
University of Exeter	x		x	x	x			x	
University of Greenwich	x	x	x	x					
University of Huddersfield	x	x	x						
University of Law		x		x		x	x		
University of Leeds	x	x	x	x		x			
University of Leicester	x	x	x			x			
University of Liverpool	x	x	x						x
University of Manchester		x	x		x	x			
University of Nottingham	x	x	x	voucher provided		x	x		x
University of Oxford	x	x	x			x	x		
University of Plymouth	x	x		x					
University of Portsmouth	x		x		x			x	x
University of Reading	x	x	x	x		x			

SUMMARY TABLE HIGHLIGHTING THE SUPPORT PROVIDED BY EACH UNIVERSITY

University	Support Available								
	Year round accommodation	Named contact throughout study	Care leaver bursary	Welcome pack	Graduation pack	Members of NNECL	Outreach programmes	Offer UNITE Scholarship (or financial aid towards halls)	Guarantor support
University of Salford	x	x	x		x				
University of Sheffield	x	x	x	x				x	x
University of Southampton	x	x	x	x			x		
University of St Mark and St John	x		x			x	x		
University of Suffolk	x	x	x		x	x	x		
University of Sunderland	x			x		x			x
University of Surrey	x	x	x	x	x	x			x
University of Sussex	x		x				x		
University of The West of England	x		x			x	x	x	
University of Warwick	x		x	x		x			
University of West London	x	x	x			x	x		
University of Westminster	x		x	x				x	
University of Winchester			x	x	x	x		x	
University of Wolverhampton		x	x		x	x	x		
University of Worcester	x								
University of York	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Writtle University College		x	x			x	x		



SUMMARY OF UNIVERSITY SUPPORT PROVIDED TO CARE LEAVERS

The following table provides a summary of the support provided by universities to care leavers. Whilst we appreciate this is not the full and extensive list of all universities, at the time of producing this report, this is either the information our research team could find via the universities' own websites or was provided to us in a Freedom of Information request.

University of Bath



- Dedicated team to give advice and guidance to care leavers.
- Flexible admissions offers can be made after considerations.
- Applicant travel bursaries are available to attend interviews or visit days.
- £1000 bursary available per year of study as well as a £1000 start-up cost and £1000 graduation bursary.
- Care leavers are eligible for University's Bath bursary or Gold scholarship.
- 365 day accommodation available throughout duration of course.
- Named contact who can offer support and guidance on a number of transitional issues and conducts check-ins throughout the year.
- First year peer mentor available.
- NNECL members.

Kate Awdry, Widening Participation Manager, University of Bath

At Bath, we're passionate about supporting students to succeed, particularly those who may face more challenges on their journey to and through university. We've therefore, long been a strong supporter of students who have experienced being in care before entering the University.

We have a dedicated team in Student Services, which provides a stable and supportive focus for support, advice, and signposting and our students highly value this support, including the additional funds provided by the supplementary bursary for students leaving care. For students applying to start studying at Bath in 2023, subject to terms and criteria, the University will also guarantee a conditional offer, typically at 1 grade below the standard offer if they complete one of Bath's outreach programmes: Pathway to Bath, Discover Bath, Target Bath or Access to Bath.

Graduating student Amber, who collaborated with our outreach team to develop new Student Experience webpages, says of her journey:

"I was so excited, but a bit daunted to move to Bath, and the Student Services team has been alongside me the whole way, giving me time that's just about me, and a point of contact to pick up the phone to anytime, as well as loads of practical help."

Bath Spa University



- Be Inspired! Outreach programme provides pre-entry information for care-experienced students.
- Member of the NNECL.
- Part of the SWLAC.
- Provided with an advisor on acceptance on an offer who supports with the transition to university and works alongside the care leaver's local authority or independent fostering agency to discuss and sort finances, accommodation, transport and additional needs.
- Guaranteed year-round accommodation.
- Opportunity for individually assessed extra bursaries.

University of Birmingham



- Care Leavers who are eligible can access the Chamberlain Award of £5975 if moving into university halls or a cash bursary of £3000.
- Scholarship of £2000 per academic year as well as £500 graduation bursary is provided.
- Two scholarships are available but are funded annually dependent on donations.
- Single point of contact is given for advice on entering higher education.
- Outreach programmes are in place for younger students.
- Pathways to Birmingham allows eligible students alternate offers two grades below standard offer.
- UCAS applicants (not on pathways) are still eligible for contextual offers one grade below standard offer.
- Applicants who are self-identified are contacted during application process and those who require interviews receive interview support.
- Bespoke welcome event for care leavers.
- Accommodation deposit waiver is available without having to pay a bond.
- Care leavers get their first-choice university owned halls, and these can be for 365 days a year if needed.
- Welcome packs including bedding, utensils and a meal voucher is also given.
- Those commuting receive a booklet for advice and information too.
- Employment support and bursaries available as well as study abroad opportunities .
- Members of the NNECL and the West Midlands Care Leavers Network.

Bishop Grosseteste University



- Uses links with Barnardo's for outreach services.
- Members of the NNECL.
- Committed to offering year-round accommodation and have a guarantor scheme for care leavers.
- Students also receive welcome package including some household essentials.
- Offers a free counselling service and a 24/7 telephone service hosted by Endsleigh's Wellbeing service.
- Enhanced bursary available and is non-repayable.
- Introduced the leaving care scholarship. Financial aid is also given to support graduation.
- Students have assistance looking for part-time work during study.

University of Bradford



- Dedicated outreach support for care leavers, named contact and peer mentoring available.
- Contextual offers can be made for admissions for nearly all degree programmes.
- Year-round accommodation can be given.
- A Care Experienced Students' Grant offers £1000 as well as additional financial funds can be accessed.
- Step Up to HE programme to meet peers.

University of Brighton



- Care leaver bursary due to eligibility.
- Outreach programme to target younger children in care.
- Students receive a primary contact throughout their course and residential team contact care leavers to encourage social events.
- Starter packages given to care leavers with items such as bedding and utensils.
- All access fresher's activity passes, and university branded jumpers are given out to care leavers.
- Guaranteed mentor.
- 365-day accommodation for first year of study.
- After the first year of study, year-round accommodation is available through direct arrangement.

University of Bristol



- Named point of contact for Care leavers from application stage through to graduation.
- Outreach contact for students considering university.
- Contextual offers can be made with up to two grades below standard entry requirements.
- Gateways available for specific courses.
- Support for moving in from students or staff if needed with a welcome package on arrival including a gift card.
- Specific funding point of contact for advice.
- Available £1500 bursary for each year of study.
- Care experienced students also have priority for the Financial Assistance fund.
- University also offers a number of other bursaries
- All year-round accommodation
- Offer of the Unite Foundation Scholarship.
- Care experienced students receive a monthly newsletter, informing them of tailored opportunities and they also receive gift boxes for Christmas. Peer support is available as well as careers and employability advice and mentor schemes.
- Opportunities for increased grants and funding for study abroad. Graduation packages and accommodation are available if required.

Brunel University London



- Offer pre-entry support such as advice, guidance, specific events.
- Care leaver bursary available.
- Accommodation deposit waiver as well as a moving in pack or voucher to help.
- Voucher for books during study.
- Priority for hardship funds.
- Financial help with trips and opportunities to study abroad.
- Graduation support package.

University of Cambridge



- Outreach programmes for younger students to enter HE such as summer schools etc.
- Year-round accommodation and up to 10 weeks after graduation if needed.
- Storage, if needed, out of term time.
- Eligible for the Cambridge Bursary Scheme up to £5600 if living in Cambridge, others can receive up to £3500.
- First installment is given before term to help with travel costs and essential items.
- Allocated Director of Studies for academic support and welfare/financial matters.
- Annual document for support and advice for care leavers.
- Organised social and peer events.

Canterbury Christ Church University



- Exclusive CIC summer school.
- Tailored introduction to the university and services available.
- Enhanced induction days to meet other care experienced students. Travel support for the open days if needed.
- Can be assigned mentors, either peer or staff.
- Union representation.
- Care leaver bursary and year-round accommodation.
- Guaranteed interview subject to appropriate qualifications.
- Three years post grad support and guidance for careers advice.
- Targeted for GradForce programme.
- Members of NNECL
- Members of CLPP

University of Central Lancashire



- Offer pre-entry support such as advice, guidance, specific events.
- Care leaver bursary available.
- Accommodation deposit waiver as well as a moving in pack or voucher to help.
- Voucher for books during study.
- Priority for hardship funds.
- Financial help with trips and opportunities to study abroad.
- Graduation support package.

University of Chester



- Access to a dedicated member of staff who can help with student finance and personal statements.
- Bespoke 1-2-1 campus visits (with travel bursary) can be arranged which also offers support with applying for the Care Experienced Support Package.
- Financial support package is given to care experienced students of £2000, half is a cash bursary, and the other half is a fee waiver.
- 365-day accommodation offered with a 50% discount.
- Priority group for peer mentoring scheme.
- Lifetime support for careers and employability and access to a graduate careers advisor.
- Eligible for Future Employability Fund for up to £500 towards future career.
- 45% discount for care experienced student who want to enroll for further study.

Coventry University



- Opportunities for mentors and extra-curricular programmes to support higher education opportunities.
- Bespoke tours and welcome events for care leavers.
- Limited bursaries for accommodation subject to conditions.
- Available careers and work advice.
- Partner with external organisations for bursaries.
- Student union representation.
- Members of the NNECL.
- Offer top up grants for field trips.

University for the Creative Arts



- Application and finance advice can be accessed.
- Outreach programmes that target care leavers.
- Meet and greet open days with a designated member of staff, support for interviews can also be given.
- Designated member of staff can monitor progress and achievements and liaise with academic staff and administrators, as well as referring to extra support services if needed. If appropriate, and given permission, they can also liaise with social service (or other bodies) on behalf of the student to ensure a holistic package of support.
- Care leavers bursary of £1000 per academic year is available and they are a priority group for hardship funds.
- Priority for 365 day a year accommodation subject to availability.
- Support is also given when moving away from university.

De Montfort University



- Care leaver bursary and support funds available
- NNECL members
- Exclusive campus tours available
- Free year-round accommodation for up to 3 years.
- Housing and kitchen packs can be provided.
- Welcome event for care leavers and specialist career advisor for care leavers.
- Attend the East Midlands Care Leavers Activities and Student Support which are a part of the NNECL.

Edge Hill University



- Annual bursary of up to £1000 per year due to eligibility of criteria.
- Specific staff training for Students without Family Support and bespoke tours of campus and communications.
- Travel expenses for applicant days as well as further development plans incoming.
- Year-round accommodation available
- Discretionary funds for summer period are available.
- Transition team on hand and available support groups with staff and peers. A member of transitions team can be requested to attend graduation, seasonal extra support as well as a well-being and counselling team on offer.

University of Exeter



- Bespoke campus visits for pupils and social workers with travel bursary of up to £150 for open days or offer holders days.
- Care leavers are eligible for contextualized offers significantly lower than standard entry requirements.
- Support contact available through application process.
- All year-round accommodation.
- Unite Foundation Scholarship scheme available.
- Welcome packs upon arrival and freshers' events and activities for care leavers.
- Point of contact throughout study and organized support group meetings
- Peer mentoring also available.
- Contact will be made about financial support available such as tuition fee waivers, access to Exeter bursary and care leaver bursary.
- Graduation package bursary available.
- Careers and employability advice.
- Members of the South West Looked After Children Practitioners Group.
- Members of the NNECL.

Falmouth University



- Dedicated student services team for care leavers to liaise and communicate with local authority and social services.
- Transition programme and welcome pack.
- Contextual admissions processes allowed and Outreach programme in place.
- Year-round accommodation and extra bursaries available for Care leavers.
- Full financial aid can also be given for graduation.
- Care leavers receive specific careers advice and internships are on offer.

University of Greenwich



- Dedicated contact from staff and an appointed care leaver coordinator.
- All year-round accommodation available with moving in support and guidance.
- Care leaver bursary for each year of study, as well as other funding and scholarship opportunities.
- Graduation pack.
- Mentoring schemes on offer and transition support.

Harper Adams University



- Outreach team for campus visits and events.
- Reduced entry requirements for Care experienced young people.
- Access to Participation and Student Success scheme.
- Year-round accommodation and priority choice of accommodation with adaptable payment plans.
- Work opportunities for a number of roles available on campus.

University of Huddersfield



- Foster family fun days prior to study.
- 1-2-1 meetings with designated point of staff and opportunities for group support meetings.
- Support throughout application process.
- Contextual offers can be made for care leavers.
- All year-round accommodation.
- Care leaver bursary, priority for hardship funds and can apply for extra support for educational items.
- Care leavers are entitled to free gym membership throughout study. Offer the Lemn Sissay PhD scholarship available.
- Specific care leaver induction day.
- Peer mentoring schemes on offer.
- Designated employability coach for care leavers.

Kings College London



- Specialist tours, open days and lectures with reimbursed travel costs.
- K+ applications prioritised.
- Designated staff member for application support for Care Experienced students.
- Contextual considerations can be made during the application process.
- Designated advisors for accepted care experienced students for transition and welcome event.
- Specific bursaries
- All year-round accommodation on offer as well as subsidised accommodation and a limited number of full accommodation bursaries. Care leaver mentoring programme and buddy system.
- Employment opportunities available.

Kingston University



- Offers KU Cares; an outreach programme to support under-represented groups progress into higher education.
- Priority for accommodation, year-round accommodation available as well as a fee waiver.
- A number of extra financial support and bursaries available and hardship funds.
- Regular 1-1's, advisors and peer support available.
- Mentoring opportunities.
- Buddy systems.
- Employability support.
- Financial support for trips and study aboard.
- £1000 Graduation bursary to transition out of university.
- Complimentary graduation package.
- Invitation to attend a KU Cares graduation meal and an available designated member of staff to attend graduation ceremony if requested.

Lancaster University



- Outreach and Student Success partnerships to encourage intake of care experienced students to Higher Education.
- Outreach programme allows you to earn credits which can contribute to lower or alternate entry offers.
- Specific courses can have contextually lowered offers due to extra criteria.
- Designated Care Contact and Transitions officer.
- Opportunities for peer mentoring and financial support.
- £2000 annual Care Leaver Bursary.
- Welcome pack to help with moving into accommodation.
- Graduation package to support financially as well as a graduation bursary of £500 to support with the transition out of university.
- Financial hardship funds available as well as extra bursaries available. Year-round accommodation priority if evidence is provided.
- Specific and accessible information on their website.
- Lancaster University are in the process of becoming members of the NNECL.
- Careers contact and workshops for employability.
- Work experience bursary opportunity.

University of Law



- Outreach programmes in place for recruitment.
- If marked as a care leaver on UCAS application and/or details of experience in care, then student will receive contextual offer one grade lower than standard offer for that course.
- Access to named contact pre-entry.
- Guaranteed shortlisting for internal jobs.
- Access to employability services.
- Academic bursaries available.
- Extra support for educational and study needs i.e., laptops etc.
- Graduation packs.

University of Leeds



- Foster family fun days as outreach as well as summer schools and weekend activities for recruitment.
- Named care leaver contact.
- Contextual offers can be made as well as support during application process.
- 365-day accommodation with a waiver for security deposit.
- Priority for Means Tested Scholarship and Financial Support bursary.
- Graduation packs also available.

Leeds Arts University



- Foster family fun days, coffee mornings, meet and greet campus tours and peer buddies can be assigned.
- Application support for care leavers, year-round contracts for accommodations.
- Care leavers automatically eligible for financial support from hardship funds.

Leeds Beckett University



- Foster family fun days and activities.
- Application support
- Care leaver bursary.
- Additional pastoral support available.

Leeds Trinity University



- Foster family fun days and pastoral support.
- Opportunity to attend summer school, upon successful completion, Leeds Trinity University 8 UCAS points off of an offer.
- Care leaver bursary and £50 Wilko's vouchers available.
- Care leavers are offered automatic shortlisting for Student Ambassador each September.

University of Leicester



- Outreach programmes for young people as young as year 5 through to aged 25.
- Offer of 2-year compact schemes, pathways and Enhanced access programme.
- Named contact in Student Welfare Service for pre and post entry advice. Priority for Leicester bursary, hardship fund and vacation award fund.
- 365-day accommodation available.
- Peer mentoring.

University of Liverpool



- 365-day accommodation available.
- Care leaver bursary.
- Bespoke campus visits with support for transport.
- Named contact during application process and throughout study, as well as a contextual offer of admission.
- No guarantor required for accommodation and deposit will be scheduled for once funding is available.
- Peer mentoring available.
- Care leaver bursary of £3000.
- Careers advice and support.

Liverpool John Moores University



- John Lennon Image Awards scheme.
- Staff mentor.
- All year-round accommodation.
- Additional £1000 bursary.
- Support package for academic skills.
- Support with open days and other admissions events.
- Potential contextual offers for Care Leavers.
- Careers support and advice available.

Queen Mary, University of London



- Bespoke campus visits for care leavers can be arranged.
- Team run university awareness events for looked after children across London boroughs.
- Subject to eligibility, contextual offers can be made for the majority of undergraduate programmes.
- Students get a dedicated member of staff as a key contact who can help with applying for student finance and other financial subjects.
- Self-declared care experienced students receive contact straight away, from the application process.
- Those who apply for an independent student loan (due to care experience) will be automatically entitled to the full Queen Mary bursary of £1700 per academic year, no extra application is needed for this.
- There is a study abroad bursary available.
- Welfare advisor and counselling session can be received from trained counsellors and mental health advisors.
- Post-graduation planning and help is given in student's final year and a bursary of £1000 can be given upon completion of study to help transition out of university.

London Metropolitan University



- NNECL members.
- Offers bespoke events and a designated contact for care leavers to do campus tours, peer socializing etc.
- Activities for advisors and foster carers.
- Care leavers bursary for £1,500 for each year available as well as hardship support fund and year-round accommodation.
- Care experienced students will be fast-tracked for student service support such as counselling etc.
- Extra careers advice from consultant who works in partnership with Care Leaver Advisor.

London South Bank University



- Opportunity for year-round accommodation.
- £1000 bursary for each year of study.
- Access to skills sessions.
- Designated point of contact for care leavers.
- Students can access Retention Fund if they're experiencing financial difficulties, care leavers are encouraged to apply each academic year.

University of Manchester



- Target group for outreach and participation programmes.
- Dependent on eligibility, contextual admissions offers can be made as well as extra bursaries.
- Peer-mentor schemes in place.
- Organisers of Greater Manchester Care Leavers Awards.
- Members of NNECL.
- Named point of contact for applicants to help and support pre-entry.
- Financial support is available for open days, applicant days and interviews upon request. Initial contact is made from application stage and those who self-declare as care-experienced are automatically flagged so if a contextual admission can be made it will be offered.
- Once attending, care leavers have 2 appointed contacts in student support and wellbeing team.
- Work experience bursary is available.
- Undergraduate access scholarship for students under 25 is on offer.
- Students can also apply for the Manchester bursary of £2000 a year for the duration of their course.

Newcastle University



- Outreach programmes aimed at year 10 and 11s.
- Foster family fun days aimed at younger years who are in care.
- Available pre-entry meetings and campus tours.
- Care experienced individuals are entitled to lower offers for their chosen course with additional support offered by an academic summer school.
- Accommodation and meals are provided for with transport also being reimbursed.
- Additional care leavers bursary is available and eligibility for opportunity scholarship and participation bursary.
- Students receive free fresher's week wristband.
- A graduation package is also provided with free gown hire, photo package and additional guest tickets.
- Extended accommodation is available on request with free or subsidized fees in process.

Newman University



- Offers contextual admissions and a dedicated webpage for care leavers to easily access all the information they need.
- A dedicated care leaver contact is available for students and additional help and support is given to care experienced students during the application process.
- Automatic acceptance to HEADSTART.
- Year-round accommodation available.

University of Nottingham



- Visit days for care experienced students in Y10-Y13
- Summer school and Ambition Nottingham Post 16 programme
- Dedicated pre-entry contact and pre-entry meeting
- Care experienced individuals are entitled to lower offers on some courses
- Place on our Kick Start Induction programme
- Care experienced student mentor
- Care experienced and Estranged Bursary
- Guarantor scheme for private rentals
- Option of 365 accommodation for university owned accommodation

At the University of Nottingham we are committed to empowering care experienced learners, recognised by the NNECL quality mark. We offer a variety of additional support from application through to the completion of your studies. This includes: a named contact, pre-entry meeting, a place on our Kick Start Induction programme, option of 365 accommodation and waiving of deposit (booked via our university portal), peer mentor, bursary, guarantor scheme and enhanced support from our Support and Wellbeing team. All support offered is completely optional and you can decide to opt in at any stage.

Nottingham Trent University



- Offers contextual admissions and a dedicated webpage for care leavers to easily access all the information they need.
- A dedicated care leaver contact is available for students and additional help and support is given to care experienced students during the application process.
- Automatic acceptance to HEADSTART.
- Year-round accommodation available.

University of Oxford



- Provide help with finding 365-day accommodation and access to a support contact throughout duration of study.
- Pre-application help and outreach programmes are on offer for care experienced students as well as a dedicated web page and careers advice post-graduation.
- Care leavers are a priority group for the Crankstart scholarship which offers up to £5,000 per year of study.
- There are specific bursaries for care leavers of up to £3,000 per year. If eligible for these, students can also access a travel supplement of £500.

Oxford Brookes University



- Outreach programmes are available, as well as support through application process.
- Students will have a named contact and dedicated web page.
- 365-day accommodation is available.
- Specific care leaver bursary of up to £2,000 per year of study.

University of Plymouth



- Bespoke campus visits/talks for care leavers.
- Recruitment events prior to study.
- Designated point of contact, development plans, resources and mentoring programmes.
- 365-day accommodation.
- £200 Wilkos voucher at the start of their course.
- Additional funding and bursaries are on offer for care leavers.
- Graduation package for all care leavers.

University of Portsmouth



- Access and participation plans for recruitment.
- Members of the NNECL.
- Care leaver bursary of £1700 per year of study and priority for discretionary university support funds.
- Designated point of staff.
- 365-day accommodation.
- Priority for rent guarantor scheme.
- Unite Foundation Scholarship.
- Careers advice up to five years after graduation.
- Guaranteed interviews for student ambassador roles if applied.

Ravensbourne University London



- Named contact who can provide application help and support with outreach programmes available.
- Careers advice is accessible after graduation.
- Can offer guidance on accommodation.
- Specific care leaver bursary available.

University of Reading



- Outreach activities on offer to prospective students.
- Accommodating to flexible application process.
- Careers advice through study and 18 months past graduation.
- Welcome package to care experienced students with household essentials.
- Care leavers also get priority on accommodation with opportunities for 365-day stays.
- Students get a named contact throughout study and a dedicated web page.
- Care leaver bursary of £1,000 in first year and then £500 for the proceeding years.

Roehampton University



- Named contact from the well-being team that can help with outreach and application process.
- Students will also receive a welcome package.
- Care leaver bursary of £2,000 per year of study available.
- There is a dedicated web page for care leavers.
- Option for 365-day accommodation or support in finding appropriate accommodation.
- Additional bursaries on offer subject to eligibility.

The University of Roehampton is creating a project that will help support care experienced students through their transition to university. This innovative project will support and educate students about how to cope more effectively as they experience student life. The support provided is part of a research study to help create a programme future care leavers can use too.

The students involved will have access to the University of Roehampton support services and live on campus for free for two weeks before they start university. They do not have to be enrolled to start at University of Roehampton. To take part, the prospective student must be over the age of 18, have accepted an offer from a London based university (not only Uni of Roehampton), and have experienced care within the UK before the age of 18.

The developed programme looks to examine areas like mental health support, physical well-being, and academic support, for example learning how to write at an academic standard with the use of critical thinking. Those involved will have free on campus accommodation and three meals a day paid by the project for the duration. Throughout the academic year there will be monthly sessions to further the student's development and ensure they are fulfilling their potential. All activities will be paid for by the project too.

-Louise Byrne, Programme Project Manager

Royal Agricultural University



- Outreach and pre-entry help available, and this will be the same point of contact once enrolled as a student.
- Guaranteed accommodation for care leavers and availability for 365-day accommodation.
- Care leaver bursary of up to £3000 throughout study with additional bursaries available subject to eligibility.

University of Salford



- Members of the NNECL.
- Contact is made to students during application process to the university. Offer bespoke open days and campus visits.
- Priority for flexible accommodation requirements.
- Care Experienced Bursary of £1000 per year of study.
- Named point of contact and specific care leaver team.
- Dedicated to keeping contact after graduation for careers and advice.

University of Sheffield



- Dedicated Care Leaver and Estranged team who provide guidance and support across admissions, finance, welfare, careers and residence life.
- Pre-entry summer school, bespoke visits available to meet staff and student ambassadors.
- Access+ scheme for recruitment.
- All self-declared care leavers will receive contact from current students who is also a care-leaver and then a follow up from staff.
- As well as free accommodation and breakfast for an applicant open day with the opportunity for travel expenses to also be paid.
- Alternate offers may be made dependent on course and entry requirements.
- Peer mentoring offered to all first-year students.
- Guaranteed 365-day accommodation.
- Sheffield Accommodation Scholarship available.
- In partnership with the Unite Foundation to offer free Unite accommodation for up to 3 years for estranged or care leaver students.
- Waiver university accommodation deposit.
- Welcome packs are available.
- University offers bursary award for full time student of up to £10,000 and part-time students £5,000 dependent on criteria.
- Enhanced bursary is available for care leavers with other considerations such as estrangement etc.
- Care leavers also eligible to apply for the Experience Sheffield Scholarship.
- University can act as a guarantor for private accommodation contracts.
- Dedicated contact for careers, work experience opportunities.
- Staff undergo training Pathways to University from Care.

Sheffield Hallam University



- Outreach programmes available to help encourage applications for university.
- Support scheme for applicants with help for applications, interviews and admissions, university visits and workshops.
- Priority choice for halls of residence and 365 accommodation guarantee, as well as moving in day support and guidance.
- Care leaver bursary and priority access to financial support schemes.
- Founding partner of Unite Foundation Scholarship which offers care leavers the chance to apply for free accommodation for 3 years of study.
- Provide budgeting guidance, transition support where students can meet other care leavers.
- A named advisor is given for support and guidance.

SOAS University of London



- Support can be given with UCAS and student finance applications
- Provided with a named contact.
- 51-week accommodation priority is given to care leavers, however not guaranteed.
- Also, a priority group for SOAS bursary which is £1500 per year as well as the hardship funds on offer.
- Aiming to implement welcome packs for care-experienced students.

University of Southampton



- Pre-application assistance and visits are available.
- 365-day accommodation and guidance is on offer.
- Welcome package is issued on enrollment.
- Financial help towards graduation is also available.
- Named contact from student inclusion team as well as a dedicated web page.
- Care leaver bursary of £2000 per year of study available as well as additional bursaries dependent on eligibility.

Southampton Solent University



- Students can have pre-entry help and guidance as well as a named contact upon enrollment.
- There are also outreach programmes and opportunities.
- Official website has a dedicated page for care leavers.
- There are options and availability for 365-day accommodation.
- Care leaver bursary of £1,500.

University of St Mark and St John



- Plymouth Marjon University offers outreach programmes, pre-entry and application support.
- Named contact on enrollment as a student.
- There is a dedicated web page for care leavers.
- Opportunities for 365-day accommodation.
- Also offer careers advice past graduation and financial advice throughout study.
- Care leaver bursary of £2,000 per year of study available.

Saint Mary's University, Twickenham



- Pre-application support is provided for care leavers.
- Outreach activities.
- Named contact once enrolled.
- Deposit payments for accommodation.
- 365 day accommodation is available.
- There is a dedicated web page for care leavers.
- Careers and financial advice is also available.
- Care leaver bursary of £3,000 per year of study with additional financial support for graduation and summer costs if required.

Staffordshire University



- Named contact for students.
- Outreach programmes and application support for prospective students.
- There is a dedicated web page for care experienced young people and careers advice is available.
- There is guaranteed onsite accommodation for 365 days a year available to care leavers.
- NNECL Members.
- Bursaries available of £1000 per year of study.

University of Suffolk



- Dedicated outreach programmes and application support.
- Care leaver bursary of £500 per year of study.
- Mentor scheme.
- 365-day accommodation is available.
- Dedicated Student Life Advisor.
- NNECL members.
- One to one support for academic development.

University of Sunderland



- Collaborative outreach programmes.
- Available scholarships and funding including We Care Scholarship of £2000 per year of study.
- 365-day accommodation priority and summer storage available.
- Moving in day support and guidance can be provided as well as a welcome voucher.
- Specific experiences and university life funding available for things such as sporting equipment and studying abroad opportunities.
- University acts as a guarantor for private accommodation.

University of Surrey



- Outreach secondary school programmes and summer schools.
- Open day befriender scheme and financial support for travel expenses as well as audition costs for the Guildford School of Acting.
- Contextualised offer up to one grade lower than standard entry offer.
- Designated staff member as contact and peer mentoring.
- Specific events for care leavers.
- £3000 bursary with £500 moving on payment.
- Welcome pack on arrival.
- Ability for 365-day accommodation as well as guarantor scheme.
- Priority for additional recreational funding.
- Members of the NNECL.

University of Sussex



- Pre-entry support is provided, and a named contact is accessible to students.
- There is a care leaver bursary of £500 per year of study.
- 365-day accommodation is available.
- Careers and financial advice is provided.
- Dedicated web page for information specifically for care leavers.

Teesside University



- Offers of outreach programmes and pre-application help which can provide guidance for students and offer holders.
- There is a dedicated web page for care leavers.
- Careers and financial advice after graduation available.
- Students can also apply to have 365-day accommodation if needed.
- There is a care leaver bursary of £1,000 per year of study.

University of Warwick



- Members of the Care Leavers' Association.
- Can offer personalised support packages as well as outreach and open days.
- Pre-application help and guidance.
- Dedicated web page for care leavers.
- Opportunities for 365-day accommodation.
- Care leaver bursary of £1,000 per year of study for those eligible and the opportunity for other bursaries and financial help subject to criteria.

University of West London



- Pre-entry support and guidance.
- Outreach programmes and events with financial help for travel.
- 365-day accommodation available.
- Named contact.
- Care leaver bursary of £1,000 and additional bursaries available.
- Careers and financial advice can still be accessed after graduation.

University of The West of England



- Pre-entry support is available and includes application help and outreach programmes and events.
- UWE runs social events and newsletters for care leavers.
- Specific care leaver bursary of £1,500 per year of study and a £500 bursary for when you graduate.
- Options for 365-day accommodation.
- Offers of UNITE scholarship.
- Students also get a careers coach which they can still access after graduation.
- There is also financial support towards moving house and voucher for new students.

University of Westminster



- Care experienced students are given priority for 365-day accommodation.
- Offer UNITE scholarship.
- Care leaver specific bursary of £750 per year of study.
- Careers advice is offered.
- Christmas meal is provided for students without family support.
- Termly newsletter for care leavers.
- Students may also be eligible for other bursaries or scholarships.

University of Winchester



- Prioritise care leavers for outreach programmes.
- Bursary of £2000 per year of study with an additional £100 on completion of their final year.
- Extended accommodation contracts.
- £75 catering card when moving into halls of residence.
- Careers opportunities within the university for work experience, as well as opportunities for funding for work experience.
- Members of NNECL.

University of Wolverhampton



- Outreach programmes for prospective students as well as dedicated higher education days for pre and post 16 looked after children.
- Offer of 1-1 application support and advice.
- Mentoring scheme.
- Designated point of contact throughout the course who can also act a link between the university and local authority/care leaving team.
- Students are eligible for the Access bursary of £1000 for two years of study and additional payments towards graduation.
- Members of NNECL.

University of Worcester



- Care experienced students are given priority for appointments with counselling and mental health team as well as the money advice team.
- Availability for 365-day accommodation.
- Also, priority for Hardship fund.
- Opportunity for meeting and social events with other staff and students.

Writtle University College



- Outreach and pre application support is available.
- Once enrolled students will have a named contact and dedicated web page.
- Can access careers and financial advice.
- Care leaver bursary of £1,200 per year of study and opportunities for other bursaries available.

University of York



- VIP visit package.
- Pre-entry bursary.
- A personalised campus tour with a current university student.
- Application and personal statement advice and support.
- Priority places on one of our Access and Outreach programmes e.g. Shine, Roots to Success, YorWay to York or Next Step York.
- Free gym membership at our two on-campus sport centres.
- Guaranteed interview.
- Contextual offer – of up to 2 grades below the standard offer.
- Free accommodation (up to £130 a week) – both on and off campus.
- Dedicated contact.
- Transitional support.
- Christmas stocking and birthday present.
- Monthly newsletter.
- Facebook group and social events.
- Bursary of £9,000 +
 - £3,000 in the first year.
 - £2,500 in the subsequent years.
 - An additional £1,000 in the final term to assist with graduation and interview costs.



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