



**Support for Care
Experienced Students
2017-2018**

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Introduction

From 2017-2018, new and continuing care experienced students undertaking an eligible undergraduate course will be eligible to apply for a funding package of tuition fees and a non-income assessed Care Experienced Students Bursary. The amount available in 2017-2018 is £7,625.

This new bursary replaces the current income-assessed living cost loan and bursary package. As such, if you apply for and meet the criteria to receive the Care Experienced Bursary, you will not be eligible to apply for a student loan.

You may also be eligible for help with your accommodation costs during the summer holidays that fall between each year of your course.

Care Experienced Students Bursary

The Care Experienced Students Bursary is available to eligible full-time students undertaking an eligible undergraduate course from 2017/2018.

You may be eligible to claim the Care Experienced Student Bursary if:

- You have ever been looked after by a Local Authority in the UK; and
- You are under 26 on the first day of the first academic year of your course (the relevant date). For most students, who start in the autumn term, the relevant date is 1 August.

A full list of the types of care experience is available [here](#).

You should select the Care Experienced Student Bursary box on the on-line application to confirm you meet the eligibility criteria above.

If you are on a paid placement you should contact us on 0300 555 0505 to find out the level of Care Experienced Student Bursary you may be eligible to receive.

Please make sure you apply for the correct level of support as we can only pay you for the support you ask for. You can visit our website at www.saas.gov.uk to get more information about the student support available to eligible students.

Care Experienced Accommodation Grant

If you are care experienced and need help with your accommodation costs during the summer holiday that falls between each year of your course, you may be able to claim the Care Experienced Accommodation Grant.

The maximum that we can pay is £105 a week during the summer holiday. We pay this directly to the person that is providing you with the accommodation. This includes:

- privately rented accommodation
- college/university halls of residence
- If you are temporarily living with a friend or relative, or continuing to live with a foster carer or kinship carer.

You may be eligible to apply for the Care Experienced Accommodation Grant if:

- You have ever been looked after by a Local Authority in the UK; and
- You are under 26 on the first day of the first academic year of your course (the relevant date). For most students, who start in the autumn term, the relevant date is 1 August.

You cannot claim the grant for the summer holiday before the start of the first year of your course of Higher Education or the summer holiday after you finish your course of Higher Education. However, you can apply for the grant during the summer holiday between courses of Higher Education, for example, if you are progressing from an HND to a degree.

If you get Housing Benefit or any other benefit, you need to tell us which benefit(s) you get, and how much. You must also tell us if your Social Services Department gives you any help.

Please note that we cannot pay the grant directly to you.

We will write to you in your second semester with an application form and further information on how to apply.

Providing the evidence we need

If you are applying for the Care Experienced Accommodation Grant, we will need the following:

- a completed Care Experienced Accommodation Grant application (we will send this to you if you indicate on your online application that you wish to claim this grant); *and*
- a copy of your formal rent agreement, *or*
- If you continue to live with your former foster carers or kinship carers, a letter from them confirming they are not in receipt of any payments linked to providing accommodation for you, *or*
- a letter from the friend or relative you are staying with which outlines the tenancy agreement/living arrangements.

You can send us the documents we need using the 'document upload' service by logging into your SAAS Account (provide link once available), or you can post clear photocopies.

Sources of advice for care experienced students

Universities and colleges provide additional support for care experienced students. Check your university or college's website for information about the support they have for students from care backgrounds, including bursaries and scholarships. You should also find the name of a key contact. Some other useful contacts are listed below.

- National Union of Students Scotland www.nus.org.uk/en/nus-scotland
- Propel www.propel.org.uk
- Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare Forum www.scottishthroughcare.org.uk/
- Who Cares? Scotland www.whocaresscotland.org

Please call our helpline on 0300 555 0505 if you have any questions about the application process.