



SAAS Funding – Care Experienced Students

The Student Awards Agency Scotland is here to help you to find the right information, support and funding

- ✓ Informing Choices
- ✓ Funding Futures
- ✓ Supporting Success

If you are a new or continuing Care Experienced student, you can apply for a funding package of:

- tuition fees
- non-income assessed Care Experienced Student Bursary and student loan
- Summer Accommodation Grant during summer period

Eligibility

You must be studying a full-time course and meet our residency conditions.

Visit www.saas.gov.uk for more information and to view our full eligibility criteria.

Eligible full-time courses

- Higher National Certificate (HNC)
- Higher National Diploma (HND)
- Degree
- PGDE (a course you study after your degree that qualifies you to teach)



Separate funding packages are available for paramedic, nursing, midwifery and postgraduate courses.

- If you have ever been looked after by a local authority (council) before turning 18, you are a Care Experienced student and may be eligible for the Care Experienced Students' Bursary (CESB).
- Types of Care Experience we would consider include, but are not limited to, foster care, kinship care (if you have lived with a family member), looked after at home on a Compulsory Supervision Order and residential care.

If you are unsure what type of care you experienced, please [contact SAAS](#).

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What is Available?

Tuition Fees

We will pay your fees directly to your college or university. You do not need to repay your fees if you study in Scotland, but you must remember to apply every year. If you're studying elsewhere in the UK you can apply to us for a tuition fee loan of up to £9,535 per year.

Care Experienced Students' Bursary (CESB) and student loan

If you're a Care Experienced student, you can apply for a non-repayable bursary of £9,000. You will also be entitled to a student loan of £2,400. This brings the support package to a total of £11,400.

From academic year 2024 to 2025, you can also apply for a £2,400 [Special Support Loan](#).

If you are eligible for the CESB, you can apply for a student loan of £2,400. If you are eligible, we will send your information to the Student Loans Company (SLC), who will process your payments and payment schedule.

You start repaying your loan in April after you graduate or leave your course and are earning over the income threshold. You will be expected to pay 9% of any income you earn over £31,395. This means if you earn £32,395 a year, you would repay £7.50 a month.

Summer Accommodation Grant

If you are Care Experienced and need help with your accommodation costs during the summer period, you may be able to apply to SAAS for support from the Summer Accommodation Grant. The grant will be a fixed amount.

You can apply for a grant of £1,330 if you are in formal accommodation (such as renting a flat) and £665 if you are in informal accommodation (such as staying with family or friends). If you are eligible, we will make the accommodation payment directly to you. It is your responsibility to make sure your accommodation provider is paid.

Other Available Funding

There are other types of funding available based on personal circumstances including grants for students who have a disability or additional learning needs and lone parents. These do not usually have to be paid back.

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Products are available in community languages and alternative formats on request.

How to apply

You can apply to us at www.saas.gov.uk from **April**, as soon as you know the course you want to study. You do not need wait for exam results.

If you do not get on the course you want, you can easily change or cancel your application online through your SAAS Account.

You must submit your completed application through your [SAAS Account](#) and send any



supporting evidence through our Document Uploader. Remember to apply as early as possible and before **30 June**. Give yourself enough time to gather all your supporting evidence.

This ensures your funding is in place for the start of your course. If you have told us that you are Care Experienced on the application, we'll contact you once we receive your application.

We will email you and ask you to complete an Evidence of Care Experience form. There is a section that needs to be completed and signed by a professional person who can confirm your circumstances. SAAS are on hand to assist you with completing the form if you need help.

We will only ask you to provide this evidence in the first year that you apply for the bursary.

Once your application has been approved, you'll receive an award notice on your [SAAS Account](#) which will confirm your funding and show your CESB bursary payment schedule.

What you need to apply

- your current email address
- your SAAS Reference Number if you have applied before
- your National Insurance number
- your bank sort code and account number
- your college or university and course details
- If you do not have the information listed above, you can contact SAAS for guidance.

Sources of advice

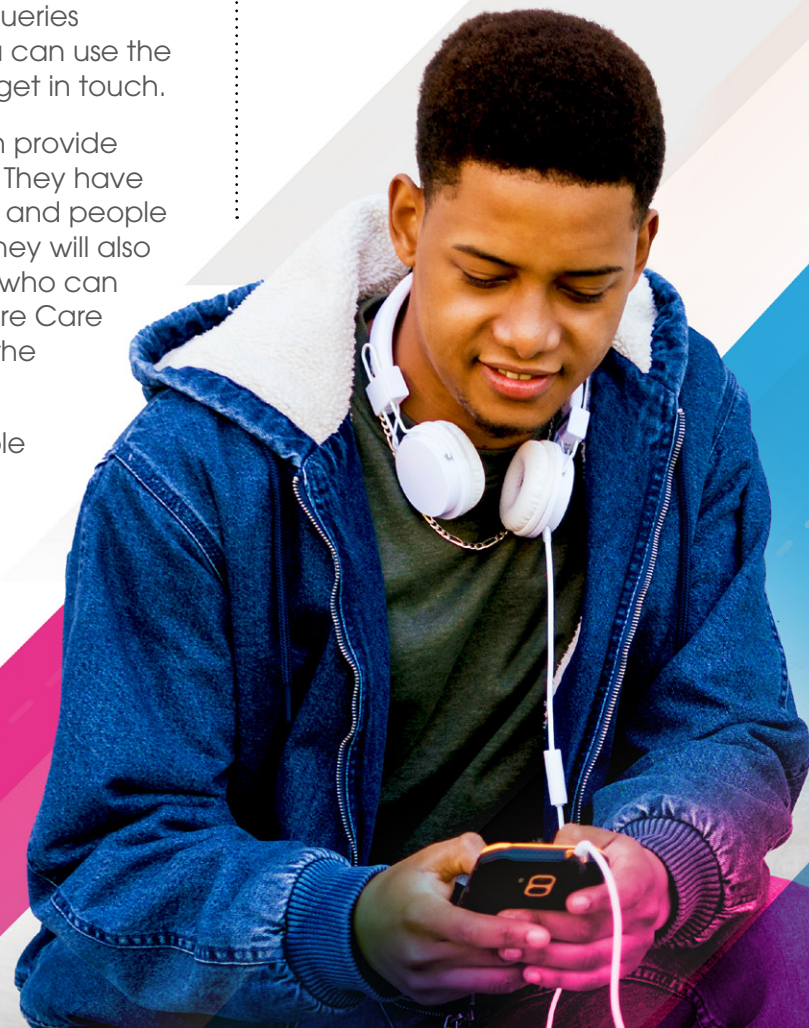
SAAS are here to help you with any queries regarding the CESB application – you can use the [Contact Us](#) section of our website to get in touch.

Your university or college website can provide support if you are Care Experienced. They have information on bursaries, scholarships and people who can offer support and advice. They will also have a named contact of someone who can offer you support and advice if you are Care Experienced. You can find details of the named contact on propel.org.uk.

Further support and advice is available from the following organisations:

- National Union of Students Scotland
- Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare Forum (STAF)
- Who Cares? Scotland

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Helpful resources for students

The Student Information Scotland **Health and Wellbeing** page provides a range of resources from trusted local and national sources.



Gender Based Violence (GBV support)

Universities and colleges should be places where students can live, study and research, free of sexual harassment and gender based violence.

<https://endgbv.uk/>

EmilyTest

Tackling Gender Based Violence in Education

Working to improve gender based violence prevention, intervention and support in FE and HE education.

www.emilytest.org

SAMARITANS Samaritans

You can get in touch about anything that's troubling you, no matter how large or small the issue feels. Talk things over in complete confidence with an experienced listener or send an email.

www.samaritans.org

Phone: 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.org



Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH)

Works to support people who experience mental health problems, homelessness, addictions and other forms of social exclusion.

www.samh.org.uk Phone: 0141 530 1000



Works to provide a wide range of mental health services for adults and young people.

www.penumbra.org.uk



www.lltff.com living life to the full

Based in Scotland, Living life to the full is an award-winning website providing easy access to cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) based resources for low mood and stress.

www.lltff.com



Breathing Space

A confidential helpline for people to call when they are feeling low, stressed or anxious.





www.breathingspace.scot

Phone 0800 83 85 87



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www.saas.gov.uk

Visit your SAAS Account regularly and check
your emails for any correspondence.

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