

# THE H.E. HANDBOOK FOR CARE LEAVERS

A GUIDE TO THE SUPPORT  
AVAILABLE IN  
HIGHER EDUCATION

SCOTLAND

January 2014

The  
*who*  
CARES?  
Trust

# INTRODUCTION

**The Who Cares? Trust** has created *The H.E. Handbook for Care Leavers* to give young people who are in or leaving care information about the support that is available at higher education institutions, and further education institutions that offer higher education courses, in England and Scotland. We put this together by asking each institution to tell us what they offer.

This is the version for Scotland. It includes a revised finance section specifically for the Scottish system. There is a section that explains the support that you can get if you're a Scottish student looking to study in England, or an English student who wants to study in Scotland.

There is a guide for English universities here:  
[www.thewhocarestrust.org.uk/hehandbook](http://www.thewhocarestrust.org.uk/hehandbook).



There is a guide for Welsh universities available from the Reaching Wider Project:  
[www.swansea.ac.uk/reaching-wider/reachingwiderpublications](http://www.swansea.ac.uk/reaching-wider/reachingwiderpublications)

Over the next few pages we describe what the handbook contains, give you some information about student finance, a few useful links and a 'jargon buster' to help you (on page 33). The rest of handbook is made up of information from institutions. There is a page for each institution and they are organised alphabetically. If you have any questions about financial arrangements you should contact the institution.

The guide is designed for 16 to 25 year olds leaving care, but it contains useful information for carers and professionals working with young people in care and care leavers.

Studying a higher education course can be a big decision for any young person and we want to make sure that you have as much support and information as possible to make the decision a little easier.

We hope you find this handbook helpful. Good luck with finding the institution that is right for you.

**The Who Cares? Trust**



**Kindly supported by**



**Alison Wetherfield**  
Foundation

## FEEDBACK

We are really interested in hearing what you think of the *H.E. Handbook for Care Leavers*. Please do get in touch if you have any comments, find something that is incorrect or have ideas for how we can improve it in the future.

You can contact us by email at [TheHEhandbook@thewhocaretrust.org.uk](mailto:TheHEhandbook@thewhocaretrust.org.uk).



## WHAT THIS GUIDE CONTAINS

Every higher education institution in The H.E. Handbook has its own page. Each page has the following information:

### CONTACT DETAILS

This tells you who to get in touch with at the institution if you have questions about the support for care leavers. It gives you their name, job title, telephone number and email address. You will also find the address for the institution's website. If there isn't a specific named person for you to contact, there will still be a number for you to call if you have any questions.

### BUTTLE UK QUALITY MARK

This is an accreditation scheme which is trying to increase the number of care leavers entering and staying in education post 16.

Quality Mark institutions are required to offer a range of support, including help with year round accommodation, bursaries and a designated member of staff as the key contact for students from a care background.



If an institution has the Quality Mark, you will see this logo in the top left corner of the page.

### CHECKLIST OF SUPPORT

We worked with a group of young people, universities, colleges and leaving care teams to make a list of things that it is important for higher education institutions to offer to care leavers. We have grouped these under two headings: CHECKLIST OF SUPPORT and FUNDING.

On each page there are a series of ticks and crosses showing whether that institution offers each of the elements of support.



We recommend that you always contact the institution you are thinking of attending to check the latest support available and for any further information.

The checklist of support includes:

### A DEDICATED WEBSITE FOR CARE LEAVERS

"Dedicated" means that you can find it through the university main website search engine or it can be reached directly from the home page. This should include detailed information about what they offer to care leavers and who to contact. All designed to make your life easier.

Some of the web addresses for these sites are quite long, so we've used Bitly to shorten them, which means they might look like this: <http://bit.ly/1kiljUR>. The links will still take you straight to the right website.

## WHAT THIS GUIDE CONTAINS

### NAMED OFFICER FOR CARE LEAVERS

It can really help to have one person who you can go to with questions and to get support. Lots of institutions have a single person who is responsible for helping care leavers. If they tick this box then you know there is one person who you can go to for help with any problems.

### OUTREACH SUPPORT OR ACTIVITIES

This describes the activities and support that an institution offers care leavers to encourage them to study there. This might include:

- **Summer schools**
- **Campus tours**
- **Taster sessions**
- **Compact schemes** (where you could receive an offer based on passing a short course run by the institution rather than prior academic achievement)

If you're thinking about studying next year then get in touch with the institution as outreach activities might be just the thing to help you make up your mind about where you want to study

### PRE-APPLICATION HELP

Some institutions can offer you advice on which course is right for you and the different options that are available. They can give you ideas for your personal statement and help with filling in your UCAS form.

### CONTACT OFFER HOLDERS

If they tick this box, institutions will contact you once you have been offered a place to tell you what support they can provide. This can help make the choice of which institution a little easier to make.

**To make sure institutions can contact you it is really important to indicate on the UCAS form (using the tick box) that you are a care leaver. This information will only be shared with people that need to know, it won't be shared with other students.**

### 365 DAYS ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation can be a real problem for care leavers thinking about higher education. Do you move away from your flat to study? What happens during vacations? Will you have to come back to your local authority during the summer?

**Many institutions now offer accommodation to care leavers for 365 days a year. This can be in accommodation they own (like halls of residence) or help finding a private flat (this will often be shared).**

## WHAT THIS GUIDE CONTAINS

If they ticked this box, institutions will offer you accommodation for the whole year (including the summer holidays).

It is worth noting that you might have to move to different accommodation during the holidays. This is something you should ask the institution about.

Further education institutions, such as colleges, which offer higher education courses can select N/A (not applicable) for this question. This is because not all of them offer accommodation to their students.

### **SUPPORT TO FIND 365 DAY ACCOMMODATION**

If they have ticked no (or N/A) to the above they might still offer support to find vacation accommodation so you can stay in the same area. They will have ticked yes to this question if they do.

### **CAREERS AND POSTGRADUATE SUPPORT**

Deciding to go to a higher education institution is a big step, but just round the corner you will need to think about the next stage of your life. Institutions can offer you help in making those choices. This could be through a careers office, through mentoring or by providing you with some publications.

### **ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

By this we mean funding to help you with the cost of studying a higher education course, that is open to all, or a specific group of students. These could be hardship funds, which anyone can get support from.

### **SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

By this we mean funding that is only available for care leavers. You might not automatically get the funding specifically for being a care leaver though – you will probably still need to apply for it.

### **SUPPORT FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS AND THOSE WITH DISCRETIONARY LEAVE TO REMAIN IN THE UK**

There are different ways that universities may offer support. It could be that they use their discretion to charge home fees instead of overseas fees, or they may have funding that only asylum seekers can apply for.

You may find specific details on what the institution offers in the free text funding box on each page. If there isn't any information and they have ticked YES in the checklist, then contact the institution directly to see what they offer

### **FINANCIAL ADVICE**

Balancing your budget can be tricky, especially if you have lots of different sources of income. That is why some institutions offer financial advice to help you manage and to access all of the funding you are entitled to.

# WHAT THIS GUIDE CONTAINS

## FUNDING

There is a free text box on each page where the institution can give further information about the funding support that they offer and that you may be able to access. Every institution has a different system in place for supporting care leavers.

You can find out more information about these funding streams and other student finance on the next few pages of the handbook.

Please remember that financial support is often dependent on students' individual circumstances and it is best to contact the institution directly to confirm the exact amount you may be able to receive.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Lots of institutions offer all kinds of support for care leavers (more than is included in the checklist). This might be a mentoring scheme, a lower grade offer for care leavers, a regular group of care leavers or a welcome pack when you first arrive. Institutions have a box on their page to tell you all about the other things they offer. It might not always be enough space to include it all, so do get in touch with them to see if there is more available.

# STUDENT FINANCES IN DETAIL

Even though adding up the sums for university may seem scary, it is important to remember that the student finance system is there to help and you do not need to find any money upfront.

Instead, you will receive financial support in the form of loans, grants, bursaries, scholarships and fee waivers to pay for your course and living costs at university and will not have to pay back any money until you have finished your course and are earning over £16,365.

A different limit may apply if you move to live in a country outside the UK. If you drop out of your course early, you will still have to pay back your student loan and will probably have to pay back any bursaries or other loans that you have received.

The funding that is available is for the course you take, not the institution you go to, so you should still get the same support if you apply to a university or college. Sometimes studying full time or part time can make a difference to the amount of funding you can get.

For more info on university costs and student loan details, check out the following link: [www.saas.gov.uk/full\\_time/ug/young/funding\\_available.htm](http://www.saas.gov.uk/full_time/ug/young/funding_available.htm).



**Remember:** You should contact your preferred institution for advice if you are unsure of your eligibility for funding.

The following paragraphs provide a summary of the financial support you could receive. You should contact the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) to find out your own exact entitlement. SAAS has a dedicated contact centre on 0300 555 0505. Calls are charged at local rates. Alternatively, you can visit the website at [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk) or the SAAS Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/saasfb](https://www.facebook.com/saasfb).

## DIFFERENT KINDS OF FUNDING

### LOANS

You can receive a total support package of up to £7,250, which includes a student loan of up to £5,500. Many students are wary of loans because of fears of building up debt, though student loans are offered on terms that are better than commercial bank loans. The rate of interest is low and you do not have to pay the loan back until you are earning the threshold salary (currently £16,365 per year).

Because in most cases Scottish students attending college or university in Scotland don't pay tuition fees, the average debt for a student in Scotland at the end of their course is around one-third of that built up by students in England. SAAS cannot assess you for a loan if you are under 16.



## STUDENT FINANCES IN DETAIL



*Remember: All loans have to be repaid when you have finished your course, but only when you are earning a good salary.*

### BURSARIES FROM THE STUDENT AWARDS AGENCY FOR SCOTLAND

These are available for young students (under 25) and independent students (for example, if before the start of your course, you are 25, are married, in a civil partnership, or living with a partner, or if you have a child dependent on you).

Bursaries are separate from your loan and you do not have to pay them back. If you are a young student, you may be eligible for a bursary of up to £1,750. If you are an independent student you may be eligible for a bursary of up to £750. You should contact SAAS to find out if you are eligible for this additional financial support.

### VACATION GRANT FOR CARE LEAVERS

SAAS provides a grant for students who have been looked after to cover the cost of accommodation in the summer holiday between each year of their course. SAAS will pay up to £105 a week directly to your landlord. For example, if you make arrangements to stay in a college or university residence during the summer vacation, this grant can be used towards meeting the cost. More details can be found at [www.saas.gov.uk/\\_forms/care\\_leavers\\_grant.pdf](http://www.saas.gov.uk/_forms/care_leavers_grant.pdf).



*Remember: You do not have to repay a bursary or grant.*

### WHO DECIDES HOW MUCH MONEY I RECEIVE?

Loans and bursaries from SAAS are 'means tested', so the amount you will receive is based upon what is referred to as 'household income'. If you are leaving care you are likely to be eligible for the maximum amount of financial support available.

### OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE

Most higher education institutions will offer their own financial support in the form of a bursary or scholarship (see the funding box for each institution).

These will have their own eligibility criteria and are often only available to a limited number of qualifying students.



*To make sure you can get access to financial support for care leavers, make sure you apply early and use the UCAS tick box to tell the institution you are a care leaver.*

You may receive the money in cash or as a fee waiver where your course fees will be reduced for either a particular year of study or your entire course. Therefore, instead of receiving the cash in hand, the cost of your fees will be lower.

# STUDENT FINANCES IN DETAIL



Remember: Bursaries and scholarships **DO NOT** have to be repaid.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY

As a care leaver you may be entitled to financial support from your local authority. The amount of support you can receive will depend on the length of time you were in care, the education you have undertaken before and which local authority provided your care.

You should get in touch with your local authority and ask them for a copy of their written policy for financial support for care leavers and ask them how they can support you.

## PATHWAY PLANS

It's really important that if you want to go to university, it's written into your pathway plan. Pathway plans are agreements between you and the local authority about the support that they will give you and if it's not written into your plan, it's hard to make the local authority provide it.

Don't panic if your plan doesn't have university in, talk to your personal advisor about getting it put in and the support they can give you.

## STUDYING IN ANOTHER COUNTRY IN THE UK

If you live in one country of the UK, you might still want to study in one of the other countries in the UK. If you do, there are some differences in how you apply for support, and what you are eligible for.

This shouldn't be a reason for you not to go for it, but you need to make sure that you understand what the differences are.

## SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WHO LIVE IN ENGLAND BUT WOULD LIKE TO STUDY IN THE REST OF THE UK

If you live in England but would like to study in Scotland, Northern Ireland or Wales you will still be able to apply to Student Finance England for help paying your tuition fees. You then may be able to access different additional support in different parts of the UK.

In England, there are Access to Learning Funds to help students who need help financially and they are administered through the institution. In other UK countries the names and criteria for these funds are different:

- **In Scotland**, these funds are called Discretionary Funds
- **In Wales**, they are Financial Contingency Funds
- **In Northern Ireland**, they are Support Funds

## STUDENT FINANCES IN DETAIL

These are all administered by individual institutions, so it is important to check with them about the individual eligibility criteria they have.

There is a guide for Welsh universities available from the Reaching Wider Project where you can find more information about studying in Wales:

[www.swansea.ac.uk/reaching-wider/reachingwiderpublications/](http://www.swansea.ac.uk/reaching-wider/reachingwiderpublications/)

### SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WHO LIVE IN THE REST OF THE UK BUT WANT TO STUDY IN ENGLAND

If you would like to study in England but don't currently live there then students from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will be able to get loans and support to pay tuition fees from:

- **Wales** – Student Finance Wales
- **Scotland** – Student Awards Agency Scotland
- **Northern Ireland** – Student Finance NI

For more information on the support from universities in England, download the England edition of this handbook from [www.thewhocarestrust.org.uk/hehandbook](http://www.thewhocarestrust.org.uk/hehandbook).

### SUPPORT FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

The support that asylum seekers can receive is subject to immigration status and universities may offer support through Article 26. The Article 26 model provides a tuition fee bursary, a small grant and personal support, but there are some eligibility criteria. Universities have to offer a bursary, and students usually have to apply.

Students should check that the university that they are applying to has an Article 26 bursary on offer and ask about the eligibility criteria specified by the university they are applying to. More information can be found at: [www.hkf.org.uk/hkf-awards/article-26-awards-1](http://www.hkf.org.uk/hkf-awards/article-26-awards-1).

# THANKS

*The H.E. Handbook for Care Leavers* could not happen without the willing participation of the institutions included. They all do something to help care leavers and many of them provide a huge amount.

We are also grateful to members of our steering group:

- Trevor Ackerman
- Sarah Hurrell
- Susan Mueller
- Arron Pile
- Lisa Schappert
- Lou Silver
- Emma
- Jonid
- Rebecca

And to colleagues across the UK for their continuing support, including:

- Dr Karla Benske at Glasgow Caledonian University
- Dr Graham Connelly, Kenny McGhee & Ben Farrugia at the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland, University of Strathclyde
- Nick Davy at the Association of Colleges
- Leia Fitzgerald at the Student Awards Agency for Scotland
- Jamie Kinlochan
- Gary Patterson
- Geraldine Ratcliffe at Colleges Scotland

We are also incredibly grateful to the Alison Wetherfield Foundation for their donation towards producing the *H.E. Handbook for Care Leavers 2014*.

# Abertay University

Website: [www.abertay.ac.uk](http://www.abertay.ac.uk)

Care leavers' website:

## Contact Details

Name:	Jonathan Staal	Phone:	01382 308 962
Job title:	Student services manager	Email:	<a href="mailto:j.staal@abertay.ac.uk">j.staal@abertay.ac.uk</a>

## Checklist of support

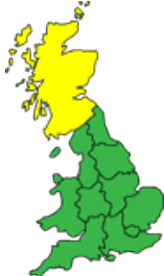
Website for care leavers?	✗	Named officer for care leavers?	✓
Outreach support or activities provided?	✓	Careers and postgraduated support?	✓
Pre-application help?	✓	365 days accommodation?	✓
Contact made with offer holders to give information about support available?	✓	If no, support to find 365 day accommodation?	✓

## Funding

Additional funding that care leavers can apply for?	✓	Specific additional funding for care leavers?	✗
Support for asylum seekers and those with discretionary leave to remain in the UK?	✗	Financial advice provided?	✓

Abertay will work with you and liaise with your local authority to ensure you have access to the funding you are entitled to. If you experience financial difficulties, we operate a discretionary fund that you can apply to for help with your routine living costs. We also operate a childcare fund that can meet up to 100% of the costs of nursery, after school and child minder costs. There is an additional emergencies fund for students in a crisis situation.

## Further information

<p>Abertay has held the Buttle UK Quality Mark for our work supporting care leavers since 2007.</p> <p>Please let us know on your application form if you have been in local authority care. We will use this information to contact you to provide helpful information about preparation activities we run, such as summer school, to help you get ready for university.</p> <p>We can also help you with: liaising with your local authority to secure funding or to arrange year round accommodation, and help make your progression to student life as smooth as possible.</p>	<p><b>We are here:</b></p> 
<p><b>REMEMBER:</b> it is always best to get in touch with the institution using the contact details above to get the most up-to-date information</p>	



# City of Glasgow College

Website: [www.cityofglasgowcollege.ac.uk](http://www.cityofglasgowcollege.ac.uk)

Care leavers' website: [bit.ly/HVjbSr](http://bit.ly/HVjbSr)

## Contact Details

Name:	Lisa Hardy	Phone:	0141 566 4134
Job title:	Student advice & funding manager	Email:	<a href="mailto:lisa.hardy@cityofglasgowcollege.ac.uk">lisa.hardy@cityofglasgowcollege.ac.uk</a>

## Checklist of support


Website for care leavers?	✓	Named officer for care leavers?	✓
Outreach support or activities provided?	✓	Careers and postgraduated support?	✓
Pre-application help?	✓	365 days accommodation?	✗
Contact made with offer holders to give information about support available?	✓	If no, support to find 365 day accommodation?	✓

## Funding

Additional funding that care leavers can apply for?	✓	Specific additional funding for care leavers?	✗
Support for asylum seekers and those with discretionary leave to remain in the UK?	✓	Financial advice provided?	✓

Care leavers work with a named contact throughout their time at college to ensure they access all funding available to them including the 'SAAS care leavers' grant' and 'College Discretionary Fund'.

## Further information

<p>At City of Glasgow College we welcome students from all backgrounds. We are committed to supporting students who are care leavers or are currently in care.</p> <p>Each year the student advisors work closely with social work, Skills Development Scotland key workers and carers to offer impartial guidance and support to care leavers and young people in care who want to attend a college course and achieve a qualification.</p>	We are here:
	
<p><b>REMEMBER:</b> it is always best to get in touch with the institution using the contact details above to get the most up-to-date information</p>	

# Edinburgh Napier University

Website: [www.napier.ac.uk](http://www.napier.ac.uk)

Care leavers' website:

## Contact Details

Name:	George Wilson	Phone:	0131 455 3372
Job title:	Student learning advisor	Email:	<a href="mailto:g.wilson@napier.ac.uk">g.wilson@napier.ac.uk</a>

## Checklist of support

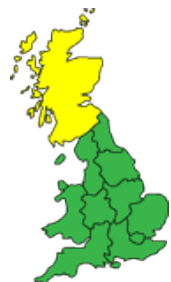
Website for care leavers?	✗	Named officer for care leavers?	✓
Outreach support or activities provided?	✓	Careers and postgraduated support?	✓
Pre-application help?	✓	365 days accommodation?	✓
Contact made with offer holders to give information about support available?	✓	If no, support to find 365 day accommodation?	✓

## Funding

Additional funding that care leavers can apply for?	✓	Specific additional funding for care leavers?	✓
Support for asylum seekers and those with discretionary leave to remain in the UK?	✗	Financial advice provided?	✓

Whether considering higher education generally, or applying to Edinburgh Napier, student and academic services can advise and support you. To discuss your plans or arrange a campus visit contact [sar@napier.ac.uk](mailto:sar@napier.ac.uk). We work with local authorities and colleges to improve access to university for care leavers, and if you accept an offer from us you'll be contacted with more details on named contacts, housing and the care leavers' bursary.

## Further information

<p>Study support offers workshops, drop-ins, and one to one sessions. Napier accommodation welcomes requests from care leavers regardless of where they currently live; if eligible, they can offer 365 day housing throughout your course.</p> <p>Student funding provides 'money' information, disability and inclusion offers dyslexia support, there are counselling services, careers advice, and Napier hosts the Independent Student Advice Service (ISAS).</p> <p>For details or to discuss, call us on 0131 455 3372.</p>	<p>We are here:</p> 
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**REMEMBER:** it is always best to get in touch with the institution using the contact details above to get the most up-to-date information

# Glasgow Caledonian University

Website: [www.gcu.ac.uk](http://www.gcu.ac.uk)

Care leavers' website: [www.gcu.ac.uk/careleavers/](http://www.gcu.ac.uk/careleavers/)

## Contact Details

Name:	Margaret Ward	Phone:	0141 273 1196
Job title:	Head of student support services	Email:	<a href="mailto:margaret.ward@gcu.ac.uk">margaret.ward@gcu.ac.uk</a>

## Checklist of support


Website for care leavers?	✓	Named officer for care leavers?	✓
Outreach support or activities provided?	✗	Careers and postgraduated support?	✓
Pre-application help?	✓	365 days accommodation?	✓
Contact made with offer holders to give information about support available?	✓	If no, support to find 365 day accommodation?	✓

## Funding

Additional funding that care leavers can apply for?	✓	Specific additional funding for care leavers?	✗
Support for asylum seekers and those with discretionary leave to remain in the UK?	✓	Financial advice provided?	✓

Care leavers studying at Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) can apply for our discretionary funds and / or our childcare funds. We also offer free accommodation at the University's Caledonian Court to care leavers.

## Further information

<p>Our Schools and Colleges Engagement Transition Team (SCETT) provides focused support to prospective and current students. These include: tailored support for UCAS applications and transition support for students developed in conjunction with our 'Learning Development Centres' and academic colleagues.</p> <p>Our MAPS (Mentoring And Peer Support) team offers mentor support to all students at GCU. MAPS mentors are trained to deal with any query / issue which a student might raise. They offer: informal support, role models, signposting to relevant staff and services, group mentoring / team mentoring / one to one mentoring / e-mentoring and pastoral support (reassurance, myth-busting, a friendly ear).</p>	<p>We are here:</p> 
<p><b>REMEMBER:</b> it is always best to get in touch with the institution using the contact details above to get the most up-to-date information</p>	

# Heriot-Watt University

Website: [www.hw.ac.uk](http://www.hw.ac.uk)

Care leavers' website:

## Contact Details

Name:	Ian Sutherland	Phone:	0131 451 8144
Job title:	Admissions manager	Email:	<a href="mailto:i.sutherland@hw.ac.uk">i.sutherland@hw.ac.uk</a>

## Checklist of support


Website for care leavers?	✗	Named officer for care leavers?	✓
Outreach support or activities provided?	✗	Careers and postgraduated support?	✓
Pre-application help?	✓	365 days accommodation?	✓
Contact made with offer holders to give information about support available?	✓	If no, support to find 365 day accommodation?	✓

## Funding

Additional funding that care leavers can apply for?	✓	Specific additional funding for care leavers?	✗
Support for asylum seekers and those with discretionary leave to remain in the UK?	✓	Financial advice provided?	✓

Care leavers are entitled to to apply for an access bursary which is currently valued at £1,000 per year for each year of study. To date, all care leavers who have applied for an access bursary have been awarded one.

## Further information

<p>We advise all care leavers who are considering applying to the university to contact the admissions manager. We can offer advice on applying and also meet one to one to show you round the university and introduce you to support staff.</p> <p>Our admissions policy provides flexibility in making offers to care leavers as a means of recognising the disadvantages that living in care can have on educational attainment. We also offer financial support through our access bursary provision, support with accommodation, and a point of contact within our student support and accommodation office as well as an academic member of staff, who is understanding of the issues that care leavers may face.</p>	<p>We are here:</p> 
<b>REMEMBER:</b> it is always best to get in touch with the institution using the contact details above to get the most up-to-date information	

# Queen Margaret University

Website: [www.qmu.ac.uk](http://www.qmu.ac.uk)

Care leavers' website: [bit.ly/Q7ys95](http://bit.ly/Q7ys95)

## Contact Details

Name:	Bill Stronach	Phone:	0131 474 0000
Job title:	Student funding adviser	Email:	<a href="mailto:bstronach@qmu.ac.uk">bstronach@qmu.ac.uk</a>

## Checklist of support


Website for care leavers?	✓	Named officer for care leavers?	✓
Outreach support or activities provided?	✓	Careers and postgraduated support?	✓
Pre-application help?	✓	365 days accommodation?	✓
Contact made with offer holders to give information about support available?	✓	If no, support to find 365 day accommodation?	✗

## Funding

Additional funding that care leavers can apply for?	✓	Specific additional funding for care leavers?	✓
Support for asylum seekers and those with discretionary leave to remain in the UK?	✓	Financial advice provided?	✓

If you are a care leaver considering your next steps we would be happy to hear from you from you at any stage. We can arrange personalised visits and contact all offer holders who have indicated experience in care on the UCAS form with details of the support we offer.

## Further information

<p>As well as our dedicated staff member there is the 'QMConnect Peer Support Project' (including online pre entry forum and mentoring).</p> <p>We also run 'QMAvance', an induction programme for new students.</p> <p>You will be given priority access to campus, staff and essential induction information.</p>	We are here:
	
<p><b>REMEMBER:</b> it is always best to get in touch with the institution using the contact details above to get the most up-to-date information</p>	



# Robert Gordon University

Website: [www.rgu.ac.uk](http://www.rgu.ac.uk)

Care leavers' website: [bit.ly/18whbul](http://bit.ly/18whbul)

## Contact Details

Name:	Study Skills and Access Unit	Phone:	01224 263 048
Job title:	Care leaver co-ordinator	Email:	<a href="mailto:movingforward@rgu.ac.uk">movingforward@rgu.ac.uk</a>


## Checklist of support

Website for care leavers?	✓	Named officer for care leavers?	✓
Outreach support or activities provided?	✓	Careers and postgraduated support?	✓
Pre-application help?	✓	365 days accommodation?	✓
Contact made with offer holders to give information about support available?	✓	If no, support to find 365 day accommodation?	✓

## Funding

Additional funding that care leavers can apply for?	✓	Specific additional funding for care leavers?	✗
Support for asylum seekers and those with discretionary leave to remain in the UK?	✗	Financial advice provided?	✓

## Further information

<p>Robert Gordon University is committed to widening participation for all students that may be disenfranchised from reaching higher education.</p> <p>We are in the process of applying for the Buttle UK Quality Mark and have support systems in place for care leavers prior to enrollment, on entry and throughout the duration of their course.</p> <p>We have a diverse student services department that cater for the individual circumstances of each student. The care leaver co-ordinator will liaise on behalf of our students with relevant departments and staff members to provide a tailored support package.</p>	We are here:
	
<p><b>REMEMBER:</b> it is always best to get in touch with the institution using the contact details above to get the most up-to-date information</p>	

# Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

Website: [www.rcs.ac.uk](http://www.rcs.ac.uk)

Care leavers' website:

## Contact Details

Name:	Jane Balmforth	Phone:	0141 270 8282
Job title:	Counsellor & disability adviser	Email:	<a href="mailto:j.balmforth@rcs.ac.uk">j.balmforth@rcs.ac.uk</a>

## Checklist of support


Website for care leavers?	✗	Named officer for care leavers?	✗
Outreach support or activities provided?	✗	Careers and postgraduated support?	✓
Pre-application help?	✓	365 days accommodation?	✓
Contact made with offer holders to give information about support available?	✗	If no, support to find 365 day accommodation?	✓

## Funding

Additional funding that care leavers can apply for?	✓	Specific additional funding for care leavers?	✗
Support for asylum seekers and those with discretionary leave to remain in the UK?	✓	Financial advice provided?	✓

All applicants are eligible for scholarships at audition.

## Further information

We welcome applications from care leavers and encourage pre-application contact so that we can offer advice and support.	We are here:
	
<b>REMEMBER:</b> it is always best to get in touch with the institution using the contact details above to get the most up-to-date information	

# SRUC (Scotland's Rural College)

Website: [www.sruc.ac.uk](http://www.sruc.ac.uk)

Care leavers' website:

## Contact Details

Name:	Sonia Filby	Phone:	01292 886 194
Job title:	Student experience manager	Email:	<a href="mailto:sonia.filby@sruc.ac.uk">sonia.filby@sruc.ac.uk</a>

## Checklist of support

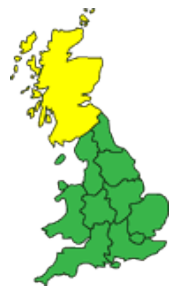
Website for care leavers?	✗	Named officer for care leavers?	✗
Outreach support or activities provided?	✗	Careers and postgraduated support?	✓
Pre-application help?	✓	365 days accommodation?	✗
Contact made with offer holders to give information about support available?	✓	If no, support to find 365 day accommodation?	✓

## Funding

Additional funding that care leavers can apply for?	✓	Specific additional funding for care leavers?	✗
Support for asylum seekers and those with discretionary leave to remain in the UK?	✓	Financial advice provided?	✓

Care leavers could apply for discretionary funds and the Scotland Rural College 'Centenary Fund'.

## Further information

<p>Care leavers can contact our admissions manager, Claire Morrison, <a href="mailto:claire.morrison@sruc.ac.uk">claire.morrison@sruc.ac.uk</a> for any queries relating to courses and applications.</p> <p>Each campus has a senior tutor, details available from the website, who can also help with queries relating to courses, application process, accommodation, funding etc. We cannot offer 365 days accommodation but we would help students to find accommodation.</p>	<p>We are here:</p> 
<p><b>REMEMBER:</b> it is always best to get in touch with the institution using the contact details above to get the most up-to-date information</p>	

# The Glasgow School of Art

Website: [www.gsa.ac.uk](http://www.gsa.ac.uk)  
Care leavers' website: [www.gsa.ac.uk/careleavers](http://www.gsa.ac.uk/careleavers)

## Contact Details

Name:	Graeme Fraser / Fiona Macleod	Phone:	0141 353 4787
Job title:	Student welfare advisers	Email:	<a href="mailto:welfare@gsa.ac.uk">welfare@gsa.ac.uk</a>

## Checklist of support

Website for care leavers?	✓	Named officer for care leavers?	✓
Outreach support or activities provided?	✗	Careers and postgraduated support?	✓
Pre-application help?	✓	365 days accommodation?	✗
Contact made with offer holders to give information about support available?	✓	If no, support to find 365 day accommodation?	✓


## Funding

Additional funding that care leavers can apply for?	✓	Specific additional funding for care leavers?	✗
Support for asylum seekers and those with discretionary leave to remain in the UK?	✓	Financial advice provided?	✓

Care leavers are encouraged to apply to one of our scholarship programmes and are also eligible for the 'SAAS care leavers' grant' (up to £105 a week for accommodation costs).

Care leavers who find themselves in financial hardship during their studies can apply for extra support via the discretionary fund.

## Further information

<p>At The Glasgow School of Art we are committed to supporting looked after young people and care leavers. We can offer a wealth of advice and support before during and after your studies.</p> <p>Please contact <a href="mailto:welfare@gsa.ac.uk">welfare@gsa.ac.uk</a> for more information on the support and assistance we can provide.</p>	<p><b>REMEMBER:</b> it is always best to get in touch with the institution using the contact details above to get the most up-to-date information</p>
	<p><b>We are here:</b></p> 

# The Open University

Website: [www.open.ac.uk](http://www.open.ac.uk)

Care leavers' website:

## Contact Details

Name:		Phone:	0845 300 6090
Job title:	General enquiries line	Email:	<a href="http://www.open.ac.uk/contact">www.open.ac.uk/contact</a>

## Checklist of support

Website for care leavers?	✗	Named officer for care leavers?	✗
Outreach support or activities provided?	✗	Careers and postgraduated support?	✓
Pre-application help?	✗	365 days accommodation?	✗
Contact made with offer holders to give information about support available?	✗	If no, support to find 365 day accommodation?	✗

## Funding

Additional funding that care leavers can apply for?	✗	Specific additional funding for care leavers?	✗
Support for asylum seekers and those with discretionary leave to remain in the UK?	✗	Financial advice provided?	✗

Depending on where you live, there are different levels of financial support available. If you live in England you may be eligible for our 'Access to Success Route'. Call us on 0845 300 8845 to find out if you are eligible.

## Further information

Call us on 01908 659253 or visit <a href="http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/access">www.openuniversity.co.uk/access</a> .	We are here:
	

**REMEMBER:** it is always best to get in touch with the institution using the contact details above to get the most up-to-date information



# The University of Edinburgh

Website: [www.ed.ac.uk](http://www.ed.ac.uk)

Care leavers' website: [bit.ly/1cvzmDq](http://bit.ly/1cvzmDq)

## Contact Details

Name:	Lesley Stokes	Phone:	0131 651 1755
Job title:	Widening participation officer	Email:	<a href="mailto:lelseystokes@ed.ac.uk">lelseystokes@ed.ac.uk</a>

## Checklist of support


Website for care leavers?	✓	Named officer for care leavers?	✓
Outreach support or activities provided?	✓	Careers and postgraduated support?	✓
Pre-application help?	✓	365 days accommodation?	✓
Contact made with offer holders to give information about support available?	✓	If no, support to find 365 day accommodation?	✓

## Funding

Additional funding that care leavers can apply for?	✓	Specific additional funding for care leavers?	✗
Support for asylum seekers and those with discretionary leave to remain in the UK?	✗	Financial advice provided?	✓

Applicants who identify themselves as having been in care are signposted to apply for our access bursary (£1,000 each year of study) and will be given extra consideration in the application process for this bursary.

## Further information

<p>The university is committed to encouraging looked after and accommodated children to apply to and successfully study at the university. We support and encourage applications from those with a background in the care system, through our 'Support for Care Leavers' scheme.</p> <p>Prospective students who identify themselves as having been in care in their UCAS application are contacted to provide them with information about the support systems available to them at the university.</p> <p>With their permission, contact will be maintained with them throughout their university career to ensure they are being appropriately supported.</p>	We are here:
	
<b>REMEMBER:</b> it is always best to get in touch with the institution using the contact details above to get the most up-to-date information	

# University of Aberdeen

Website: [www.abdn.ac.uk](http://www.abdn.ac.uk)

Care leavers' website:

## Contact Details

Name:	Carol Baverstock	Phone:	01224 273 504
Job title:	Head of admissions	Email:	<a href="mailto:c.baverstock@abdn.ac.uk">c.baverstock@abdn.ac.uk</a>

## Checklist of support


Website for care leavers?	✗	Named officer for care leavers?	✓
Outreach support or activities provided?	✓	Careers and postgraduated support?	✓
Pre-application help?	✓	365 days accommodation?	✗
Contact made with offer holders to give information about support available?	✗	If no, support to find 365 day accommodation?	✓

## Funding

Additional funding that care leavers can apply for?	✓	Specific additional funding for care leavers?	✗
Support for asylum seekers and those with discretionary leave to remain in the UK?	✓	Financial advice provided?	✓

For further information about finance and funding please visit our webpage:  
[www.abdn.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/finance](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/finance).

## Further information

<p>We are committed to supporting all students regardless of background and circumstance and aim for all students to fulfill their potential. We firmly believe that each student should be treated as an individual and will be delighted to offer support tailored to personal needs.</p> <p>We can offer care experienced students a variety of support including tailored campus visits, application and personal statement advice, financial advice, potentially scholarships and guidance on all aspects of student life.</p> <p>Care leavers receive priority places at all our 'Aim 4 Uni' events, including revision schools and curriculum support events. If you would like to discuss anything please contact Carol Baverstock.</p>	<p>We are here:</p> 
	<p><b>REMEMBER:</b> it is always best to get in touch with the institution using the contact details above to get the most up-to-date information</p>

# University of Dundee

Website: [www.dundee.ac.uk](http://www.dundee.ac.uk)

Care leavers' website:

## Contact Details

Name:	Dr John Blicharski	Phone:	01382 384 124
Job title:	Access & participation manager	Email:	<a href="mailto:j.r.d.blicharski@dundee.ac.uk">j.r.d.blicharski@dundee.ac.uk</a>

## Checklist of support


Website for care leavers?	✗	Named officer for care leavers?	✓
Outreach support or activities provided?	✓	Careers and postgraduated support?	✓
Pre-application help?	✓	365 days accommodation?	✗
Contact made with offer holders to give information about support available?	✓	If no, support to find 365 day accommodation?	✓

## Funding

Additional funding that care leavers can apply for?	✓	Specific additional funding for care leavers?	✗
Support for asylum seekers and those with discretionary leave to remain in the UK?	✓	Financial advice provided?	✓

Care leavers are eligible to apply for several types of financial support and are strongly supported in doing so.

## Further information

<p>The University of Dundee is especially keen to welcome care leavers and does everything it can to encourage and support them.</p> <p>Our approach is to have a named senior manager with 20+ years experience of the university as a first point of contact and is easily contactable. We recognise that, like all students, care leavers can need help and advice at any time and that that support must be rapidly available when needed.</p> <p>We also recognise that care leavers may be unwilling to inform us of their status but encourage them to do so at every opportunity so they can be fully supported in our world of learning.</p>	We are here:
	
<p><b>REMEMBER:</b> it is always best to get in touch with the institution using the contact details above to get the most up-to-date information</p>	

# University of Glasgow

Website: [www.gla.ac.uk](http://www.gla.ac.uk)

Care leavers' website: [bit.ly/1j94U4w](http://bit.ly/1j94U4w)

## Contact Details

Name:	Dan Keenan	Phone:	01413 304 022
Job title:	Care leaver support co-ordinator	Email:	<a href="mailto:daniel.keenan@glasgow.ac.uk">daniel.keenan@glasgow.ac.uk</a>

## Checklist of support


Website for care leavers?	✓	Named officer for care leavers?	✓
Outreach support or activities provided?	✓	Careers and postgraduated support?	✓
Pre-application help?	✓	365 days accommodation?	✓
Contact made with offer holders to give information about support available?	✓	If no, support to find 365 day accommodation?	✓

## Funding

Additional funding that care leavers can apply for?	✓	Specific additional funding for care leavers?	✓
Support for asylum seekers and those with discretionary leave to remain in the UK?	✓	Financial advice provided?	✓

The university provides a number of care leaver bursaries to new students who have spent time in care. Awardees receive £1,000 per year for the duration of their studies. Such provision is also in place for those who go on to postgraduate study. Care leavers can also apply for a 'Talent Scholarship', and to the university's discretionary and hardship funds. The Care leaver support co-ordinator can offer guidance with all of these applications, and will be only too happy to answer any enquiries.

## Further information

<p>The University of Glasgow welcomes applications from anyone who has spent time in care. We hold the Buttle UK Quality Mark at 'Exemplary' level and are committed to increasing the number of care leavers in higher education. As such, care leaver applicants receive adjusted offers of entry and can participate in our successful pre-entry preparation programmes.</p> <p>We strongly encourage UCAS applicants to indicate their care leaver status. This allows us to get in touch regarding the raft of support (financial, academic, advisory) that is available.</p> <p>If you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact Dan Keenan (Care leaver support co-ordinator) who will be only too happy to help.</p>	<p>We are here:</p> 
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**REMEMBER:** it is always best to get in touch with the institution using the contact details above to get the most up-to-date information

# University of St Andrews

Website: [www.st-andrews.ac.uk](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk)

Care leavers' website: [bit.ly/1j94QBG](http://bit.ly/1j94QBG)

## Contact Details

Name:	Mike Johnson	Phone:	01334 462 346
Job title:	Director of access	Email:	<a href="mailto:schools.access@st-andrews.ac.uk">schools.access@st-andrews.ac.uk</a>

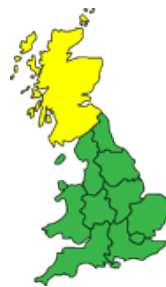
## Checklist of support

Website for care leavers?	✓	Named officer for care leavers?	✓
Outreach support or activities provided?	✓	Careers and postgraduated support?	✓
Pre-application help?	✓	365 days accommodation?	✗
Contact made with offer holders to give information about support available?	✓	If no, support to find 365 day accommodation?	✓

## Funding

Additional funding that care leavers can apply for?	✓	Specific additional funding for care leavers?	✗
Support for asylum seekers and those with discretionary leave to remain in the UK?	✓	Financial advice provided?	✓

## Further information

	We are here:
	

**REMEMBER:** it is always best to get in touch with the institution using the contact details above to get the most up-to-date information



# University of Stirling

Website: [www.stir.ac.uk](http://www.stir.ac.uk)

Care leavers' website: [stir.ac.uk/78](http://stir.ac.uk/78)

## Contact Details

Name:	Jane Harris	Phone:	01786 467 080
Job title:	Money advice & student guidance	Email:	<a href="mailto:cli@stir.ac.uk">cli@stir.ac.uk</a>

## Checklist of support

Website for care leavers?	✓	Named officer for care leavers?	✓
Outreach support or activities provided?	✓	Careers and postgraduated support?	✓
Pre-application help?	✓	365 days accommodation?	✓
Contact made with offer holders to give information about support available?	✓	If no, support to find 365 day accommodation?	✓


## Funding

Additional funding that care leavers can apply for?	✓	Specific additional funding for care leavers?	✗
Support for asylum seekers and those with discretionary leave to remain in the UK?	✓	Financial advice provided?	✓

Any student with money issues can apply for a discretionary / hardship grant. [stir.ac.uk/e2](http://stir.ac.uk/e2)

Undergraduate students with high A level or equivalent scores who pay 'rest of the UK fees', may qualify for a RUK merit award. [www.stir.ac.uk/scholarships/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/scholarships/)

## Further information

<p>Thinking about Stirling? Want to know more? Come along to one of our open days or an applicant day.</p> <p>'Talk and tour' afternoons are a great option if you'd like more individual time with fewer people around. You'll meet a member of recruitment staff (Tracey Kerr is the care leavers' contact) and have a campus tour. More information: <a href="http://bit.ly/1feHtXw">http://bit.ly/1feHtXw</a></p> <p>Jane Harris can help with queries before and after you come here to study, particularly funding issues. Contact Tracey and Jane on the email address above.</p> <p>We're committed to making sure you can make the most of being a student at Stirling. Check our web pages to find out about the different types of support available to you.</p>	<p>We are here:</p> 
<p><b>REMEMBER:</b> it is always best to get in touch with the institution using the contact details above to get the most up-to-date information</p>	

# University of Strathclyde

Website: [www.strath.ac.uk](http://www.strath.ac.uk)

Care leavers' website: [bit.ly/l39SUI](http://bit.ly/l39SUI)

## Contact Details

Name:	Deborah Duncan	Phone:	0141 548 4248
Job title:	Named contact for care leavers	Email:	<a href="mailto:d.duncan@strath.ac.uk">d.duncan@strath.ac.uk</a>

## Checklist of support

Website for care leavers?	✓	Named officer for care leavers?	✓
Outreach support or activities provided?	✓	Careers and postgraduated support?	✓
Pre-application help?	✓	365 days accommodation?	✓
Contact made with offer holders to give information about support available?	✓	If no, support to find 365 day accommodation?	✓

## Funding

Additional funding that care leavers can apply for?	✓	Specific additional funding for care leavers?	✗
Support for asylum seekers and those with discretionary leave to remain in the UK?	✓	Financial advice provided?	✓

Care leavers can apply for a variety of monetary awards such as 'The University of Strathclyde Undergraduate Scholarship Award', the 'McNaughton Bursaries' and the 'Capita Award'. These awards are needs assessed and are worth up to £1,250 for the academic year.

## Further information

<p>The University of Strathclyde is committed to supporting you if you have a background in care; in recognition of this we have received the Buttle UK Quality Mark in the 'Exemplary' category.</p> <p>We can offer you support before making your application to university and also offer a wealth of support after you have accepted your offer of a place.</p> <p>We have dedicated staff who understand the different challenges you may face and who can offer advice and support on accommodation, study support, personal support and finance.</p> <p>For further information please contact Deborah Duncan (email: <a href="mailto:d.duncan@strath.ac.uk">d.duncan@strath.ac.uk</a>) or visit our website: <a href="http://www.strath.ac.uk/rio/informationforcareleavers">www.strath.ac.uk/rio/informationforcareleavers</a>.</p>	<p>We are here:</p> 
<p><b>REMEMBER:</b> it is always best to get in touch with the institution using the contact details above to get the most up-to-date information</p>	

# University of the Highlands and Islands

Website: [www.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.uhi.ac.uk)

Care leavers' website: [bit.ly/1atUjPE](http://bit.ly/1atUjPE)

## Contact Details

Name:	Ian Horne	Phone:	01595 771 251
Job title:	Student support manager	Email:	<a href="mailto:ian.horne@uhi.ac.uk">ian.horne@uhi.ac.uk</a>


## Checklist of support

Website for care leavers?	✓	Named officer for care leavers?	✗
Outreach support or activities provided?	✗	Careers and postgraduated support?	✓
Pre-application help?	✓	365 days accommodation?	✗
Contact made with offer holders to give information about support available?	✓	If no, support to find 365 day accommodation?	✓

## Funding

Additional funding that care leavers can apply for?	✓	Specific additional funding for care leavers?	✓
Support for asylum seekers and those with discretionary leave to remain in the UK?	✗	Financial advice provided?	✓

## Further information

<p>We are a partnership of 13 colleges and research institutions across the Highlands and Islands delivering a wide range of opportunities including research degrees, undergraduate and postgraduate taught degrees and higher national certificates and diplomas.</p> <p>Currently, there are over 8,000 students enrolled on H.E. courses with the university. Each college or research institution has a dedicated student services team on-hand to deal with a wide range of student issues including those specific to applicants who have experience in care.</p> <p>One of our partners, Perth College, has been awarded the Buttle UK Quality Mark. For more information visit <a href="http://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/students/support/care-leavers">www.uhi.ac.uk/en/students/support/care-leavers</a>.</p>	<p>We are here:</p> 
<p><b>REMEMBER:</b> it is always best to get in touch with the institution using the contact details above to get the most up-to-date information</p>	

# University of the West of Scotland

Website: [www.uws.ac.uk](http://www.uws.ac.uk)  
 Care leavers' website: <http://uws.ac.uk/careleavers>

## Contact Details

Name:	Jane O'Rorke	Phone:	0141 849 4126
Job title:	Care leaver co-ordinator	Email:	<a href="mailto:jane.ororke@uws.ac.uk">jane.ororke@uws.ac.uk</a>

## Checklist of support

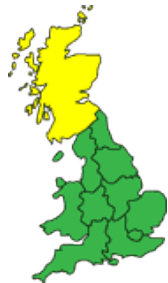
Website for care leavers?	✓	Named officer for care leavers?	✓
Outreach support or activities provided?	✓	Careers and postgraduated support?	✓
Pre-application help?	✓	365 days accommodation?	✓
Contact made with offer holders to give information about support available?	✓	If no, support to find 365 day accommodation?	✓

## Funding

Additional funding that care leavers can apply for?	✓	Specific additional funding for care leavers?	✗
Support for asylum seekers and those with discretionary leave to remain in the UK?	✓	Financial advice provided?	✓

The discretionary fund is available to all UK students who are in receipt of the maximum student support available to them and who face financial difficulties. You do not need to be Scottish to be eligible. Please apply early as possible. Assistance can be given for completing the application. Forms for session 2013 / 2014 session are now available. For further information please visit: [www.uws.ac.uk/funds](http://www.uws.ac.uk/funds)

## Further information

<p>At University of the West of Scotland (UWS) we realise that looked after young people and care leavers face many barriers to learning. We can provide support before, during and after their time at university.</p> <p>Confidential advice is provided on opportunities in education and we can help with applying through UCAS for a degree programme.</p> <p>We can also arrange campus tours for young people and their carers to enable them to get a better idea of what the university offers.</p> <p>There is also help with learning and study skills available to help prepare for degree level study through our effective learning team and student services offer a range of support from funding and advice to careers opportunities.</p>	<p>We are here:</p> 
<p><b>REMEMBER:</b> it is always best to get in touch with the institution using the contact details above to get the most up-to-date information</p>	

# JARGON BUSTER

Admissions	Admissions is the process where you choose where you'd like to study and institutions decide who to offer a place to. There are usually teams of people at each institution to help you through the process. If you have any questions then you should always ask them by using the named contact listed on the institution's handbook page.
Article 26	This is a specific project run by the Helena Kennedy Foundation. They provide support for asylum seekers at certain universities, you can find out more about the project at: <a href="http://www.hkf.org.uk/hkf-awards/article-26-awards-1">www.hkf.org.uk/hkf-awards/article-26-awards-1</a> .
Bespoke	This means support or projects which are designed just for you.
Campus	The place where university buildings are based. Sometimes this is an out of town space, but some places have campuses in town too.
Clearing	This is the process of finding a university place if you didn't get the grades you expected (whether they were higher or lower). You can find out more about clearing at <a href="http://www.ucas.com/students/nextsteps/clearing/">www.ucas.com/students/nextsteps/clearing/</a>
Collegiate	This simply means a university that is made up of several different colleges. Colleges are not just halls of residence; they also have a responsibility in running the university.
Compact scheme	<p>Compact schemes are arrangements between institutions, schools and colleges. They are schemes that aim to remove or break down barriers for particular groups of students.</p> <p>For some schemes this means a promise that applications will be carefully and sympathetically considered, for others it means you could get a lower offer if you take part in some form of additional learning.</p> <p>These schemes can be really helpful as they give people who have lots of potential, but do not have formal qualifications to match, a chance to get into higher education.</p>
Counselling	You might want someone to talk to or someone to help you deal with your problems. Institutions can offer a counselling service which offers you this support.
Educational psychologists	Educational psychologists work with people to assess how you learn and if you have any problems. They then suggest a range of different approaches (different learning aids or ways of studying) to help you get the most out of your time in higher education.
Emergency bridging loans	These are short term loans to help if you face an emergency which leaves you short of cash. These are just a short term measure that is designed to keep you afloat. You should not rely on these loans and you have to pay them back.
Foyer	Foyers are places where young people live, a bit like a hostel, often while receiving support from support workers to help them get ready to live independently. You can usually stay there for nine months to a year.
Halls of residence	These are buildings owned by institutions where students can live. They range from traditional blocks with long corridors of rooms and catering on site, to self-contained self-catering flats.
Means-testing	This is a process which decides how much money you are entitled to from certain schemes. It usually involves asking details about your current income, bank balance and savings. Institutions use this to make sure that the people who have the least money receive the most help.

## JARGON BUSTER

Mentoring	Having someone who knows the ropes can be really helpful. Lots of institutions run mentoring programmes which link you up with someone who has experience of university (often someone in the second or third year) and sometimes they have care experience too. They can help you understand what is going on, offer advice or just be a friendly person to have a chat with.
Named contact	This is a person in the institution who is responsible for working with care leavers. See the introduction of the handbook for more information.
Open days	These are specific days when institutions throw open their doors to potential students. You can have a look around, get a feel for what a place is like, meet some tutors and students and ask lots of questions. With so many places offering higher education this can be a great way to find a place you feel comfortable in.
Outreach events	These are specific events designed to attract people to higher education who have not traditionally gone. With only 6% of care leavers going to higher education at 19 there are a lot of programmes designed specifically for you.
Private sector accommodation	This is the other place people will stay while studying in higher education. They are houses and flats owned by private landlords. Often universities have housing offices which register landlords and can help you find somewhere to live.
Scholarship	This is funding that is available to certain people, which you do not have to pay back. It can be to reward people with really excellent skills or to encourage people who do not usually go into higher education to attend.
Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS)	This is the agency that you apply to for financial support (loans and grants) to study a course of higher education in the UK.
Student shadowing	If you're not sure what studying in higher education would be like, then some places offer you the opportunity to spend time with a student. You can go round with them all day and see what a lecture or seminar is like, check out the library and bar and ask them about life in higher education.
Study skills workshop	If you haven't been in education for a while or you feel like you could do with some extra help, these workshops provide an opportunity to practice the skills you need in higher education. They might help with writing an essay, conducting research or putting together a bibliography. These are great opportunities to hone your skills.
Summer schools	Summer schools take place over the summer holidays and give you a chance to put in a bit of extra study in a higher education setting. This could be when you're still at school to get a taste of life in higher education or after you've finished college to top on your knowledge before you start in higher education.
Taught year	For some funding schemes money is only available for years when you are being taught at an institution – as opposed to a year abroad or on placement.
Transition support	Transition is the process of moving from one place to another, and while there is support out there, some universities may offer extra support during the first part of your time somewhere, to help you get settled in.
Tuition fee waivers	Some funding comes as cash, some comes as money off your accommodation and some of it comes as tuition fee waivers. This means that you will pay lower fees and have less to pay back when you finish your course.



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