

Care Leavers and Care Experienced Students

If you are a Care Leaver* or Care Experienced student, the University can offer support to make the transition to becoming an independent student smooth and straightforward. You will be provided with a named contact who will be a source of information and advice throughout your time with the University. By discussing the transition into Higher Education and learning about the resources that are available, you can ensure that you get the most out of your student experience at the University of Manchester.

Pre-entry advice and support

If you are considering applying to the University please feel free to contact the pre-entry named contact (details on reverse) to arrange an informal meeting to talk through anything you are unsure about. If you have already completed your UCAS application and identified yourself as Care Experienced, then we will invite you to attend a meeting with the named contact. The meeting will be confidential and you will be informed of all the University resources and services available to you, and can also find out about the next University Open Day and Accommodation Open House Day you could attend. You could bring along a Foster Parent, Local Authority Care Worker or friend if you wish. If you are unable to attend in person we can arrange a telephone appointment.

If you did not tick the box on your UCAS form, you can still contact the named contact to arrange a meeting throughout your time at the University.

Support available:

Student Finance

If leaving Local Authority Care, you will be classed as an independent student as long as you don't return to the care of your parent(s). You could receive the maximum tuition fee loan and maintenance loan. Further

information can be found at: www.manchester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/student-finance/.

The Manchester Bursary

If you are assessed as an independent student with Student Finance, you will be eligible for The Manchester Bursary of up to £2,000 (household income related) for the duration of your course. We can give you details of your entitlement as well as information about how to apply to Student Finance England and other external sources of finance.

Undergraduate Access Scholarship

This is a £1,000 scholarship per year of study, which is in addition to the income assessed bursaries that the University offers. You will be eligible for this if **you are under the age of 25 and were in public care for a minimum of three months after the age of 11**. An assessment is carried out by the named contact for care experienced students when you join the university

<https://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/funding-opportunities/all/bursaries-and-scholarships/bursaries2022-23/>

Cost of Living Support Fund

Care experienced students are one of the priority groups for the University's Cost of Living Support Fund and therefore if you experience any financial difficulties as a result of an unexpected event, you can make an application to the fund

<http://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/funding-opportunities/all/living-cost-support-fund/>

Support with Accommodation

The University of Manchester can provide year round flexible accommodation for 52 weeks. This can be for the duration of your course if you wish, or just for your first year and/or second year of study. We will be able to assure you that no guarantor is required, and as an care experienced student we will also be able to organise you booking your room without a deposit.

* The term care leaver refers to a young person who was in Local Authority care (including but not limited to public care, foster care, semi-independent living or residential care homes) when coming to University and has been in care for a period of 13 weeks or more spanning their 16th birthday; it does not include care workers or applicants who have been involved solely in the provision of care.

Student Ambassador Work Opportunity

Student Ambassadors work on a variety of outreach events and activities designed to enthuse and motivate prospective pre-and-post-16 students about Higher Education, and promote the University as a place to study. It's a great way to meet new people, gain work experience and earn some money. There are events that are specifically for looked after children and care leavers, where we would value having Student Ambassadors who are care experienced. In these cases, whilst it is not a requirement to talk about your personal experiences it could be an opportunity to be a fantastic role model.

Careers Service

This service can offer you support in applying for part time jobs, work experience, internships, funding for post graduate study and much more:

www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/

Global Graduates

The Manchester Global Graduates Programme gives students the opportunity to spend one week meeting with alumni in one of the University's host cities. Priority is given to students in receipt of the Manchester Bursary and the trip is fully funded.

<http://www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/findjobs/globalgraduates/>

Volunteering and Community Engagement

This service can provide you with volunteering opportunities to suit all interests and schedules. It's a great way to develop new friendships and skills:

www.volunteers.manchester.ac.uk/volunteer-community-engagement/

Other University services

We can tell you about other support service including the Counselling and Mental Health Service

(www.counsellingservice.manchester.ac.uk/) and

Disability Advisory & Support Service (DASS)

(www.dass.manchester.ac.uk/). We will also help you to find childcare provision should you require it.

Students' Union

The Students' Union is independent of the University. It provides a physical space and variety of resources, activities and societies so that you can make the most of student life:

<https://manchesterstudentsunion.com/>

The Students' Union can also offer a short-term emergency loan of up to £100.

<https://manchesterstudentsunion.com/finance-advice/maximising-your-income>

Support from your Local Authority

You should also qualify for a one-off Higher Education Bursary from your Local Authority of a minimum of £2,000. Local authorities also have a responsibility to offer assistance with accommodation and other costs related to entering higher education, which is in addition to the Higher Education Bursary. Please contact your Local Authority for further information and to discuss the level of support they can provide.

For further advice please contact Emma Lewis-Kalubowila, named contact for pre-entry care experienced students, in the Access and Success team at:

Email: wecare@manchester.ac.uk

Current students can contact the named contacts for post-entry care experienced students, Ailsa Skelly and Jabeen Akram at:

Email: independentstudents@manchester.ac.uk

Other sources of Information and Advice:

- Propel.org.uk – Higher Education Website for Care Leavers by the Who Cares Trust:
www.becomecharity.org.uk/
- Care Leavers Association: www.careleavers.com/.
- Contact Coram Voice if you are not receiving the financial aid you are legally entitled to:
<https://coramvoice.org.uk/>

Factsheets on student money advice can be found at

www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/a-z/

We have made every effort to ensure that the information contained in this leaflet is accurate however, we cannot be held responsible for any omissions or errors.