

Information for Care Leavers

If you are a Care Leaver*, the Student Support and Advice Team can offer support to make the transition to becoming an independent student smooth and straightforward. You will be provided with a named Student Support Adviser 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 named Student Support Adviser (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 a Care Leaver, then we will invite you to attend a meeting with the Student Support Adviser. 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 Student Support and Advice Team to arrange a meeting throughout our time at the University.

**The term care leaver refers to a young person who has spent any time in Local Authority care (including but not limited to public care, foster care, semi-independent living or residential care homes); it does not include care workers or applicants who have been involved solely in the provision of care.*

Support to Student Care Leavers Financial support:

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). For any new students starting from 2016/17, the maintenance grant no longer exists. You could receive the maximum tuition fee loan and maintenance loan. Further information can be found at: [University of Manchester student finance 2017-18](#).

The Manchester Bursary

You will almost certainly 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. We can also arrange an appointment for you to meet with our **Student Money Adviser**.

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. An assessment is carried out automatically, and if you are eligible you will be contacted in November. Further information can be found at [University of Manchester scholarships & bursaries](#).

Manchester Hardship Fund

Care leavers are one of the priority groups for the University's Hardship Fund and therefore if you experience any financial difficulties as a result of an unexpected event, you can make an application to the University's [Manchester Hardship Fund](#).

Support with Accommodation

The University Accommodation office can provide a flexible, up to 52 week accommodation contract in University halls. This can be for the duration of your programme of study if you wish.

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.

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.

Other University services

We can tell you about other support services such as the Counselling Service and Disability Advisory & Support Service (DASS). We will also help you to find childcare provision should you require it.

Students' Union

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

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 Ian Bradley in the Student Support and Advice team at ian.Bradley@manchester.ac.uk or call 0161 306 3993 [or 0161 275 3033 and 0161 275 3781]

Other sources of Information and Advice:

- Propel.org.uk – Higher Education Website for Care Leavers by [The Who Cares Trust](#).
- [Care Leavers Association](#)

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.