If you are a Care Leaver*, 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 a Care Leaver, 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 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). You could receive the maximum tuition fee loan and maintenance loan. Further information can be found at: www.manchester.ac.uk/

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.

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: https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/student-finance/2022/uk/university-support/

Living Cost Support Fund
Care leavers are one of the priority groups for the University’s Living Cost Support 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 Living Cost Support Fund: http://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/funding-opportunities/all/living-cost-support-fund/

Support with Accommodation
The University Accommodation office can provide year-round flexible accommodation for 52 weeks in University halls. This can be for the duration of your programme of study if you wish. Living in halls is advantageous as no guarantor is required and the deposit is generally less than those required for other types of accommodation. http://www.accommodation.manchester.ac.uk/ouraccommodation/

* 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/](http://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/](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/](http://www.volunteers.manchester.ac.uk/volunteer-community-engagement/)

**Other University services**
We can tell you about other support service including the Counselling Service ([www.counsellingservice.manchester.ac.uk/](http://www.counsellingservice.manchester.ac.uk/)) and Disability Advisory & Support Service (DASS) ([www.dso.manchester.ac.uk/](http://www.dso.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/](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](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 Widening Participation team at:

Email: ELK@manchester.ac.uk

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

Email: studentsupport@manchester.ac.uk

**Other sources of Information and Advice:**
- [Propel.org.uk](http://Propel.org.uk) – Higher Education Website for Care Leavers by the Who Cares Trust: [www.becomecharity.org.uk/](http://www.becomecharity.org.uk/)
- Care Leavers Association: [www.careleavers.com/](http://www.careleavers.com/).
- Contact Coram Voice if you are not receiving the financial aid you are legally entitled to: [https://coramvoice.org.uk/](https://coramvoice.org.uk/)

Factsheets on student money advice can be found at [www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/a-z/](http://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.*