Independent Student Meet-up (in person!)

We're pleased to let you know that we've booked a space in the lovely Milk and Honey café for our next Independent Student Meet-up. The meet-up is a chance to meet other care experienced and estranged students in an informal environment. There will be free coffee/tea and cake, and we really hope to see you there! Please see details below:

Tuesday 23rd November, 2pm-3pm
Milk and Honey café, St Peter's House, Oxford Road (opposite Brewdog)

Paid work at the University as a Student Ambassador
Deadline Approaching 24/11/2021

You may already know, that as a Care Experienced and/or Estranged student, you have access to guaranteed paid work at the University as a Student Ambassador. Being a Student Ambassador allows you to earn money alongside your degree with flexible working hours. The role will give you a chance to work with young people and represent the Uni at various events as they discover the opportunities that Higher Education has to offer.

Although this opportunity is guaranteed, those who are interested still need to complete an application. This gives the team a chance to get a sense of who you are before the training. The deadline for completing your application is Wednesday 24th November at 12pm, so there are only a few days left to apply. There will also be a paid training session between 2pm-5pm on the same day, so we would encourage you to apply soon so that you can attend this. If you still need to register you interest and find out how to apply, please email Emma.mcdougall@manchester.ac.uk

Wellbeing corner
Check out these...
Six ways to wellbeing resources:
bint.ly/sixwaysresources

Free hot drinks and 50% off food for Independent Student's at Milk and Honey Café

We've been working with the Milk and Honey café to organise 'Well Keyrings' so that estranged students can get 50% off food and free hot drinks at the café. If you're a care experienced student you can also get a 'Rees Card' to receive the same offer.

The café is a lovely, quiet place on campus which is the perfect place to grab lunch or sit and work with a hot drink. We're really pleased to be able to offer you this discount and if you would like to get a Well Keyring or a Rees Card, please let us know by emailing studentsupport@manchester.ac.uk and we will arrange for you to receive this.
Estranged students solidarity week
Manchester Independent Students Project (MISP)

Are you a first year student who wants to get a head start, develop your skills and boost your employability? Are you motivated to achieve your internship, placement or graduate job goals? If this is you, we would really encourage you to book a place at the information session that upReach are running about their programme, exclusively for first year Independent Students at UoM next week. You can book your place here:
www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/upreach-session-for-independent-students-tickets-211818403547

Manchester Rising Stars Fund
UoM are now partners with the Manchester Rising Stars Fund (MRSF). MRSF supports ambitious, talented 16 to 24 year olds to achieve their potential - by funding vital equipment, training and resources to enable them take their next steps to success in Work, Qualifications or Entrepreneurship, via grants of up to £5,000. If you would like to apply for the fund, or find out more information, you can do so here: www.welovemcrcharity.org/rising-stars-fund. Email us on studentsupport@manchester.ac.uk if you have any questions about the fund or how to apply.

Work Experience Bursary
The Work Experience Bursary Scheme (WEB) offers all undergraduates the opportunity to take up low or unpaid work experience to help build your skills for feature employment. Work Experience can take many different forms. It could be a self-created opportunity, internship, or insight week. Whatever the opportunity is, the Careers Service bursary scheme can help! To find out how you can apply for up to £1,000 check out the website: bit.ly/workexperiencebursary

Manchester Independent Students Project (MISP)
We are delighted to share the following message with you about the newly created and very exciting MISP:

"Hello, I'm Syd, the Chair & Founder of MISP. As an Independent Student myself, I noticed that there was little social support in place for Independent Students in the SU, so I have created MISP. MISP is a peer-run project for Care Experienced & Estranged students in higher education in Manchester. We do recognise the complexities around being Independent, and accept students who aren't formally registered as Independent with Student Finance! We aim to run socials, workshops & a buddy scheme for students, in order to create some more social support at uni!
If you're interested in being a part of MISP, either accessing the services, volunteering with us or becoming a committee member, email us at mcrindependentstudentsproject@gmail.com. Follow us on Instagram: @mcrindependentstudents"
**Students Union Student Staff Vacancy**

We have an exciting opportunity to join the Volunteering & Fundraising staff team at the Students’ Union, working closely with the Access and Widening Participation Coordinator, to help to support and deliver the Access All Areas (AAA) projects. We are looking for a motivated and organised individual with an interest in Widening Participation, educational projects, and supporting student volunteers. You will have excellent administration skills, and be able to manage a close working relationship with key internal and external partners including University of Manchester staff and partners across Greater Manchester. Access All Areas is a group of 15 student-led educational volunteering projects that aim to improve access and widen participation in Higher Education. AAA has a growing number of projects, and volunteers engage with hundreds of pupils from schools and sixth forms across Greater Manchester every year.

Full details, including the job description and online application form can be found on the Students' Union website: https://umsu.staffsavvy.me/apply/position/awpadminassistant-nov21

Applications close 11:59pm on Wednesday 1st December

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**Estranged Students Solidarity Week 22-26 November 2021**

Estranged students solidarity week is coming up, and one of the main purposes of the week is to raise awareness about family estrangement, and the barriers that estranged students can sometimes face in Higher Education. At the University, we are using the week to raise staff awareness about the support that estranged students can access, so that if a student self-identifies to any staff member that they know and feel comfortable with, they know how to help that student access support. We will also be running a training session for staff during the week, using the expertise that we received from our Independent Students in the focus group we ran last year to shape the training. If you'd like to find out more head to: www.thestandalonepledge.org.uk/students/estranged-students-solidarity-week

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**The Care Experienced Graduates' Decision-Making, Choices and Destinations Project**

If you are a final year care experienced student, you are invited to take part in the above project with Dr Zoe Barker, a care experienced Research Fellow at the University of York. Participants will receive Amazon vouchers as a thank you. Find out more at www.drzoebaker.co.uk/current-projects

**Festive Cards Campaign**

EaCES are a peer support network by and for estranged, orphaned, refugee and care experienced students in the UK. They are running a Christmas campaign and would love to send you a card and small surprise this festive season. Sign up at https://forms.gle/bBnqTY8fCW6CCfLF7

**Rees Foundation Drop in Session**

The Rees Foundation support care experienced people of all ages, and understand the importance of a lifelong support network. They are inviting care experienced students to come along to the Milk and Honey café on Oxford Road for coffee and cake on Wednesday 8th December between 11am-2pm.

The drop-in is a chance to find out more about Rees Foundation services, or for those of who you just fancy some coffee and cake!

**COMING UP...**

30th November: BECOME weekly link up
1st December: Adjustments during the recruitment process - how to request support if you have a disability (Check out on Career Connect)
2nd December: Learning how to relax (Counselling Service)