

HELPING YOU REACH HIGHER

GOING TO COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY IS A BIG STEP, BUT THERE'S SUPPORT AVAILABLE IF YOU'RE CARE-EXPERIENCED. THIS IS A GUIDE TO WHAT YOU'RE ENTITLED TO.



This is from a series of FREE factsheets for young people with care experience, produced by Become.

Support from your council

Pathway Plan

Every looked after child must have a Pathway Plan¹, usually starting around your 16th birthday. It's like a contract between you and the council, setting out how they will help you live independently. Whether you want to do a degree, a degree apprenticeship, become a doctor or a basketball coach, get it written into your Pathway Plan. Check out Care Advice Line Factsheet 3 for more on getting the most out of your Pathway Plan.

Personal Adviser

Whether you're in education or not, you're entitled to support from your Personal Adviser (PA) until your 25th birthday.² Once you're at college or university, you can contact your PA for support both in and out of term-time.

Every local authority must publish their local offer and financial entitlements policy for care leavers – ask for a copy of both documents so you know what you're entitled to.³



Become runs Propel, a website which lets you search for the support on offer to care-experienced students applying for higher education courses at UK colleges and universities. Check it out at propel.org.uk

Higher Education (HE) bursary

You are entitled to a bursary of £2,000 if you are studying at university, paid by your local authority. This is usually paid in instalments over the duration of your course.

Holidays

Your local authority should give you money to live on over the holidays, and somewhere to live if you don't have year-round accommodation where you're at university. Talk to your PA to find out what your local authority offers.



BECOME.
THE CHARITY FOR CHILDREN IN CARE
AND YOUNG CARE LEAVERS

FOR SUPPORT AND ADVICE, OR INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS, CALL THE CARE ADVICE LINE ON 0800 023 2033 (WEEKDAYS, 10:30AM-3PM) OR EMAIL ADVICE@BECOMECHARITY.ORG.UK.



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1. Set out in The Children Act 1989 & Leaving Care Act 2000
2. Children and Social Work Act 2017, s3, and will come into place later in 2018.
3. Children and Social Work Act 2017, s2, and will come into place later in 2018.
4. Maximum Tuition Fee Loan for the 2018/2019 academic year in England, from <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/new-fulltime-students>
5. Maximum Maintenance Loan for the 2018/2019 academic year in England, from <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/new-fulltime-students>

Support from universities, colleges and other sources

Tick the Box

It is vital that you 'Tick the box' on UCAS form so that your chosen universities and colleges can let you know what additional support you are entitled to. This could include finance, accommodation and other support services. Ticking the box is confidential and the university will only share your information with people who need to know it, and who you have agreed should be informed.

Student loan

Student Finance England will give you a loan to pay for your tuition fees (of up to £9,250 per year)⁴ and a maintenance loan for your living costs (of up to £8,700 per year, or £11,354 if you are in London)⁵. You don't have to start paying your loans back until you are earning over a certain amount. As a care leaver, unless you are earning an income, you will probably be entitled to a full loan for both fees and maintenance. Your HE bursary does not count as income.

Care leaver bursary

Lots of universities offer bursaries specifically for care leavers – you can see which universities offer this kind of support by using Propel. The amounts vary and can be from £1,000 and £3,000



per year. Universities also offer hardship funds in case you have trouble paying for the things you need. There are also funds for things like study trips and equipment. Some will be grants, others will be loans that you have to pay back.

Charitable grants

The Unite Foundation (www.unitefoundation.co.uk) offers a scholarship scheme with some universities, providing free accommodation for young people without family support, including care leavers. Some charities offer grants to care leavers, such as the Rees: The Care Leavers Foundation (www.reesfoundation.org), Buttle UK (www.buttleuk.org) and the Spark Foundation (www.sparkfoundation.org.uk). For more information, see Become's Care Advice Line Factsheet 1.

Support for refugees, asylum seekers and people with discretionary leave to remain

If you have refugee status, you are entitled to the same student loans as UK students. You should also ask about specific bursaries and grants available at your university. Asylum seekers are not eligible for loans from Student Finance England, but there are bursaries and grants available to you. Article 26 (article26.hkf.org.uk) provides bursaries for asylum seeking students – visit their website to find out which universities are

There's loads of support available to help you to achieve great things. You can do it!

participating. If you have discretionary leave to remain, you might be entitled to help from Student Finance England. For advice, contact Just for Kids Law (www.justforkidslaw.org).