Care leavers

Bursaries

Other support
We class students leaving the care of their local authority (LA) as care leavers, as long as they don’t return to the care of their parent(s). This means their assessment for student finance won’t be based on their parents’ household income.

A letter from a social worker or support worker confirming that the student was in the legal care of their LA can be used to demonstrate the student’s status. This should be sent to us with the student’s finance application.

Students leaving the care of their LA are able to get the same support as other students. They’re also likely to qualify for additional support:

**Bursaries**
Care leavers may be able to get additional financial support, such as fee discounts or cash awards from their university or college. Many universities and colleges offer specific Care Leaver Bursaries to young people coming to higher education from a care background.

**Other support**
Care leavers on a full-time or part-time higher-education course will get funding from the LA responsible for their care. This might be in the form of a non-taxable bursary, or payment for accommodation or fees. We don’t include this support when calculating what finance students can get. To apply, students should contact their personal adviser, social worker or case worker at their LA.