



Care Experienced at Edinburgh College

A guide for Care Experienced students on what support is available to you during your studies.

WHAT DOES BEING CARE EXPERIENCED MEAN?

Care Experienced individuals may have been, or are currently in, the following situations:

- **Foster care**
Living with another family.
- **Residential care**
Living in a children's unit.
- **Kinship care**
Living with friends or relatives.
- **Care leaver**
Someone leaving care or no longer in care, and under the age of 26.
- **At home**
Living with parent(s), but with social work involvement.
- **Other**
In a different community or with prospective adopters.

WHY SHOULD YOU TELL US IF YOU ARE CARE EXPERIENCED?

If you decide to tell us that you are care experienced, you will be completely in control of your information. This is yours to share, it's your choice. We need to know you are care experienced to ensure you get the best learning and financial support that you are entitled to.

WHO CAN I SPEAK TO IF I AM CARE EXPERIENCED?

You can speak to student services who will then direct you to the best person to speak to, or you can email guidance@edinburghcollege.ac.uk



HOW CAN THE COLLEGE SUPPORT YOU IF YOU ARE CARE EXPERIENCED?

- **Application support**

We can support you through the application process for funding, childcare, and accommodation where required.

- **Priority for funding**

If you have indicated on your course application that you are care experienced, and you have submitted all of the required evidence for funding, then the college will deal with your application as a priority.

- **Additional support**

We can discuss any additional support needs you might have.

- **Contact with one person**

We can allocate a named person that you can contact during your time at college who understands your individual situation and needs and can provide ongoing guidance throughout your time at college.

- **Emotional support and wellbeing**

Support if you are experiencing stress or difficulty inside or outside of college.

- **Learning Support**

We can help you to access any additional support you may need – perhaps you had support in your exams at school, for example a reader, extra time, separate accommodation. If you think you might need this at college. You can email

Learning.support@edinburghcollege.ac.uk

WHAT IS THE CARE EXPERIENCED BURSARY?

In 2018-2019 the Scottish Government stated that its priority was to increase the rate of bursary funding for Care Experienced students. The Scottish Funding Council states that a student will be eligible to apply for the care experienced bursary if they:

- Have ever, at any time in their lives, been looked after by a Local Authority in the UK.
- Are beyond their statutory school leaving date.

HE students should apply for their care experienced bursary through SAAS (they should contact SAAS directly if they have already made an application but did not include that they are care experienced).

FE students apply online for bursary as normal, and should indicate on the further information page that they are care experienced. Students should tick the care experienced flag in the financial details page. Students do not need to provide household income information

In both instances, the student will need to provide supporting evidence, such as a letter from the Council, a care organisation or similar official body.

For guidance please contact
guidance@edinburghcollege.ac.uk



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