Supporting the progression of young people in (or leaving) care into University

The University of Exeter is committed to supporting young people up to the age of 25 in care and care leavers to realise their full potential through higher education study. We set out our commitment to care-experienced students on our website: www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/life/careleavers

The University of Exeter follows the definition of care leaver used in the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000. This is ‘someone who has been in the care of the Local Authority for a period of 13 weeks or more spanning their 16th birthday’.

We organise events each year to specifically bring young people in care, care leavers, social workers and carers onto the University campus to experience what being at university might be like.
Pre-entry support

Exeter Scholars
As a young person in care you may be eligible to be part of the Exeter Scholars programme. Becoming an Exeter Scholar can be achieved by completing one of three unique pathways that include a range of specific events and activities. This free programme gives you the opportunity to develop your knowledge about university and experience what it is like to study a subject of your choice at university level.

For more information about Exeter Scholars visit: www.exeter.ac.uk/exeterscholars

Open Day – Travel Expenses
You may also be interested in attending one of our pre-application open days either at our Exeter Campuses and/or the Penryn Campus. Open Days give you the opportunity to find out more about the University and decide whether Exeter is the right choice for you before you apply. They are packed with opportunities for you to see a range of facilities, meet staff and students, and experience the atmosphere of the University for yourself. We are able to reimburse travel costs for care-experienced students.

Applying as a care leaver

UCAS Application Form
We would encourage you to tick the box in the care questions on your UCAS application. By ticking this box the University will be able to let you know what additional support you are entitled to. We will treat this information in confidence and will only share your information with those who need to know, and who you agree should be informed.

Admissions
During our admissions process we recognise the impact that being in care can have on a student’s attainment and this may be taken into account when we are considering your application. This might mean that you are made an offer at the lower end of the grade range, or you may be made an ‘aspirational’ offer if your predicted grades aren’t quite in line with our expected levels. In addition, some GCSE requirements may be waived.

Contact details for all pre entry queries
Exeter Campuses
Natalie Bracher Outreach Officer outreach@exeter.ac.uk 01392 722526
Penryn Campus Richard Prest Outreach Officer penrynoutreach@exeter.ac.uk 01326 371858
Support

If you indicate on your UCAS form that you are a care leaver, you will be contacted for further information to help us establish if you meet the criteria for care leavers as defined in the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000. We will also make sure that you are aware of the financial and pastoral support that we offer to care leavers.

Care leavers are usually classified as independent students and would therefore qualify for the maximum levels of government and institutional financial support.

For more information visit: www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/life/careleavers

Financial Support

- **Fee Waiver** – Care leavers starting undergraduate or PGCE courses at the University of Exeter will not have to pay tuition fees.

- **Opportunity to apply for the Access to Exeter Bursary**

- **Opportunity to apply for care leavers’ bursary** – The bursary is intended to help with the cost of accommodation during the summer vacation period after your first and subsequent years of study (but not final year). The bursary amount is not fixed, but is decided by taking into account the additional cost of your accommodation needs.

For more information about financial support visit: www.exeter.ac.uk/students/finance/studentfunding/fundingforcareleavers
**Accommodation**

We understand that you may require additional information to help you to make your accommodation choices and we are happy to discuss individual requirements.

For care leavers in the local area who are holding an offer from the University of Exeter, a support meeting will be arranged to discuss your accommodation options. Once your needs have been established, the University’s named contact for care leavers will liaise with the Accommodation Office. This may include 365-day accommodation if required.

**Unite Foundation Scholarship Scheme**

The Unite Foundation is a charitable trust that focuses on enabling young people under the age of 25 to make the most of educational opportunities. The Unite Foundation offers generous scholarships for care leavers and/or estranged students. Each scholar currently receives free accommodation for three years in a Unite student building and the award is complemented by access to activities and opportunities which support employability.

Scholarships are awarded annually. To download an application form visit the Unite Foundation website [www.unitefoundation.co.uk/get-a-scholarship](http://www.unitefoundation.co.uk/get-a-scholarship).

**Wellbeing**

Health and wellbeing are important for effective study, alongside a rich and fulfilling student experience. Staying well in body and mind isn’t always easy at university. We recognise that it’s much more difficult to learn and enjoy student life when personal difficulties or emotional worries arise. Our Wellbeing Services offer a range of resources and support to help you in both personal and academic life. For more information about this support visit: [www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/life/wellbeing](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/life/wellbeing).

Once you have been accepted at the University of Exeter, we offer a one to one meeting with the University’s named contact for care leavers. They will help with advice and support, from careers advice to disability and additional needs support, accommodation to counselling and advice on your student finances. Please contact us to find out more.

**Contact**

If you are considering higher education and need advice and guidance and for information about the support offered by the University, please contact Natalie Bracher in the first instance.

Natalie Bracher, Outreach Officer
Email: outreach@exeter.ac.uk
Useful links

**Propel**

[www.propel.org.uk](http://www.propel.org.uk)

An informative website that helps you decide whether studying at university or college is right for you. It includes general information about moving into higher education from care, stories of care leavers who have studied at university, a university and course search, and detailed information about the support offered to care leavers by each college and university.

**UCAS**


As well as being the place to search and apply for university courses, the UCAS website also contains videos of care leavers’ experiences of university and explains why it’s important to tick the care leavers box on your application form.

**The National Network for the Education of Care Leavers (NNECL)**

[www.nnecl.org](http://www.nnecl.org)

This website lists events and resources specifically for children in care and care leavers.

**Become**

[www.becomecharity.org.uk](http://www.becomecharity.org.uk)

Charity for children in care and young care leavers.
Student Recruitment Office,
University of Exeter,
The Innovation Centre,
Exeter, EX4 4RN

Information is correct at time of going to print.