



University
of Exeter

Care Leaver & Estranged Student Bursary Terms & Conditions 2026/2027

A bursary of £1,000 per year is available for a maximum of four years of study (including up to the fourth year of an integrated Master's programme). An exception applies to Medicine at the University of Exeter, where students who are care leavers or estranged from their parent(s) will receive support for all five years of their degree.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the care leaver/estranged student bursary you must:

- Be studying a full-time undergraduate course.
- Meet the University's definition of being a care leaver or an estranged student.

Care Leaver:

We define a **care leaver** as a young person (up to the age of 25) who has been looked after by a UK local authority for more than 13 weeks since they were 14, including some time at age 16 or 17.

Estranged student:

We define an estranged student as a young person (up to 25) who has little or no contact with their parents (either biological or adoptive) and that this is unlikely to change.

- Be starting or continuing your studies in the 2026/2027 academic year.
- Be assessed by the relevant UK student funding body as having independent/estranged student status or in the process of applying for this status.
- Be a UK citizen or have been resident in the UK for at least three years.
- Be Studying for your first degree, PGCE* or integrated undergraduate Masters' degree (e.g., MSci or MEng)*

This includes:

- study a year in industry.
- study a year abroad.
- are permitted by your faculty to temporarily change from full-time study to part-time study due to extenuating circumstances.
- repeat up to 1 year of study if studying a 3 year course
- PGCE course if you did not receive bursary funding at UG level.

For clarity, the following groups of students **are not eligible** for a bursary: international students, EU students, students studying a second degree, students aged 26 or above when commencing their studies and post graduate students.



University
of Exeter

This award is in addition to the other bursaries and benefits to which students may be entitled such as the Access to Exeter Bursary and the Success for All fund.

Payments

Awards will be paid in two instalments: £500 in December, £500 beginning of June. To receive a payment, you must be registered and engaged with your studies

We will automatically assess your entitlement for an award. Your independent status will be checked by the Exeter Cares Team via the Student Funding Team prior to making payment.

If you are experiencing sudden estrangement or are waiting for your independent status to be verified by the relevant UK funding body. Please complete this [online form](#) and the Exeter Cares Team will be in touch regarding support available and guidance on applying as an independent student.

Students are advised to make sure their information is up to date before May 2027, as no awards will be made after the final bursary assessment run in June of each year.

If you interrupt or withdraw from your studies, you will not have to repay any bursary payment, as long as you are eligible for the bursary on the date the payment is made. If you interrupt or withdraw before the next bursary payment date, you will not receive further payments, and you will not be required to repay any previously paid instalments.

Awards cannot be claimed retrospectively for previous academic years/instalments.

The University reserves the right to cease payments, to take steps to recover funds already issued and to take any additional action deemed appropriate, if it transpires false information was provided. If a student is suspended (temporarily or permanently) further payments will not be paid.

In the event that a student wishes to appeal against the University decision of their bursary assessment, an appeal must be made in writing outlining reasons for the appeal by contacting the Exeter Cares Team at Exeter-cares@exeter.ac.uk. Once the University receives an appeal, a panel will review the case and will respond formally within 28 days.