

KICUP SKILLS

HIGHER EDUCATION

RECOMENDED AGE 16+

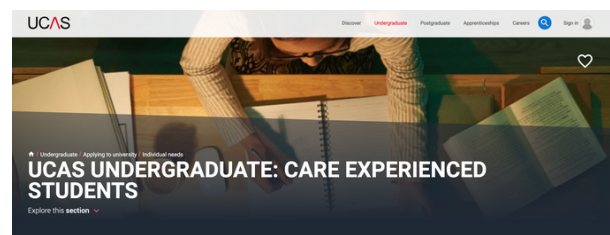
*KICup stands for Kids in Care, the up represents the high aspirations we have for you. This name was created by care experienced people within Three Circles Fostering.



APPLYING TO UNI?

If you are in care, or have experience of being in care in the past, there's lots of support available in higher education to help you with finance, accommodation, and settling in.

UCAS, the website you will use to make your University application have a section dedicated to information and guidance for care experienced people.
<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/individual-needs/ucas-undergraduate-care-experienced-students>

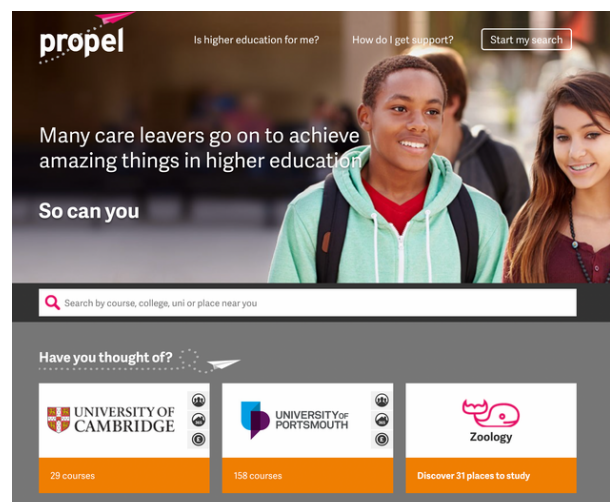


Tick the box

When you apply through UCAS you will have the option to tick the box to let the university know you are care experienced. The university uses this information to connect you to the support you are entitled to. Read this blog on the importance of ticking the box!
<https://www.ucas.com/connect/blogs/students-care-experience-three-reasons-tick-box>

What does the university offer you?

Propel is a dedicated search engine which tells you exactly what the university will offer you as a care experienced person. You can also contact the widening participation team at the uni who can help with your application and so much more. Head to <https://www.propel.org.uk/UK/> to find out more



Become charity factsheet:

Become have created a factsheet about your rights in higher education. You can get your copy here:

https://becomecharity.org.uk/media/1685/factsheet_english_upp_final_v2.pdf

These factsheets are available in multiple languages here:

<https://becomecharity.org.uk/care-advice-line-factsheets-2017/>

FACTSHEET 4 Entitlements in higher education **PAGE 1 OF 2**

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 Plan, 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. Once you're at college or university, you can contact your PA for support both in and out of term time.

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.

Care Advice Line
0800 023 2033

BECOME.
BECOMING AN INDEPENDENT ADULT

advice@becomecharity.org.uk www.becomecharity.org.uk/care-advice-line [Facebook.com/BecomeCharity](https://www.facebook.com/BecomeCharity) [@Become1992](https://www.instagram.com/become1992)

This is Us community

A place for all UK care experienced and estranged students in Higher Education, of any age and at any degree level.

<https://thisisusatuni.mn.co/>

Welcome to the This is Us community!

Join us in our Mighty Network

Request to Join

Unite Foundation scholarship:

With the Unite Foundation scholarship, if awarded, you will have accommodation and bills covered for up to 3 years of study. That includes all through the holidays too, so you don't have to wonder where to go during reading weeks or over Christmas or summer.

Apply now for the Unite Foundation Scholarship

@thisisusatuni

Uni money tips:

My BNK have created a tool to give you the information you need to become financially independent covering student finance, banking, borrowing, budgeting and spending.

<https://www.mybnk.org/yp/students/>

Uni Money Tips - Get Ready for Independent Living

Tools - Videos - Articles

STUDENT FINANCE

What is a care leaver?

You can apply for student finance as a care leaver if you meet all of the criteria listed below:

- You've been in the care of, or given accommodation by, your local authority
- You were in care for at least 13 weeks
- Your time in care ended after you turned 16
- You have not returned to the care of your parent(s) before the first day of the first academic year of your course

What do I need to send to prove that I'm a care leaver?

You can provide evidence of being a care leaver by sending us:

- a letter from your local authority; or
- a letter from your case worker or social worker.

This letter must confirm:

- that you were looked after by a local authority (this includes being placed in foster care by your local authority)
- the dates that you were in care
- that you have not returned to the care of your parent(s) prior to the first day of the first academic year of your course

You only have to send evidence of your care leaver status when you first apply for student finance for your course. For any years of your course after that, you'll be awarded the maximum amount of Maintenance Loan you're entitled to (if you want it).

What does this mean for my student finance application?

If you get student finance as a care leaver, you won't be asked to provide any of your parent's financial details. You'll be assessed as an independent student and will be awarded the maximum amount of Maintenance Loan you're entitled to.

Remember to always apply for student finance as soon as possible. Universities and colleges also provide care leaver support. You can talk to advisers within Student Services / Wellbeing or the Student Union.

All information taken from [Social Finance England](#)

Contact the office if you would like a member of the engagement team to set up a call to discuss your university aspirations on 01625 533531

GETTING HELP AND ADVICE

If you need an advocate or information about your rights contact:

- Coram Voice
 - www.coramvoice.org.uk/alwaysheard
 - help@coramvoice.org.uk
 - Freephone: 0808 800 5792 / 07758 670 369

For legal advice and information contact:

- Child Law Advice Service (Coram Children's Legal Centre)
 - www.childlawadvice.org.uk
 - 0300 330 5480
- Law Stuff (Coram Children's Legal Centre)
 - www.lawstuff.org.uk
- Find a solicitor (Law Society)
 - www.lawsociety.org.uk/find-a-solicitor

For immigration advice contact:

- Migrant Children's Project (Coram Children's Legal Centre)
 - www.childrenslegalcentre.com
 - mcpadvice@coramclc.org.uk
- Children's Advice Project (Refugee Council)
 - www.refugeecouncil.org.uk
 - 0207 346 1134
- Find a solicitor (Law Society)
 - www.lawsociety.org.uk/find-a-solicitor

For housing and homelessness advice contact:

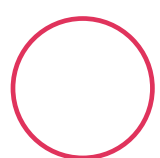
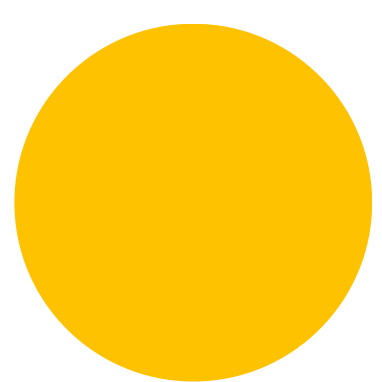
- Shelter
 - www.shelter.org.uk
 - 0808 800 4444

For care leavers with disabilities contact:

- SCOPE
 - www.scope.org.uk
 - 0808 800 3333
- Mencap
 - www.mencap.org.uk
 - 0808 808 1111
- MIND
 - www.mind.org.uk
 - 0300 123 3393 or email info@mind.org.uk

Other advice and support services for care leavers:

- Help at Hand (Children's Commissioner)
 - <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/help-at-hand/>
 - 0800 528 0731
- Care Advice Line (Become)
 - www.becomecharity.org.uk/help-advice/care-advice-line/
 - 0800 023 2033



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[Threecirclesfostering.com](https://www.threecirclesfostering.com)

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Where possible, we have utilised [language that cares](#) through this document

