

University of Salford

Salford Bursary for Care Leavers and Care Experienced Students

Academic Year 2021/22

Salford Bursary for Care Leavers and Care Experienced Students - Academic year 2021/22

1. Award details

The £1,000 cash bursary is to support a student's learning and living costs and is available to UK undergraduate full-time and part-time students verified as care leavers or care experienced and who were under the age of 26 when starting their course.

A care leaver is a young person who has been in the care of, or has been given accommodation by, their local authority (LA) such as foster care or a children's home for a period of at least 13 weeks between their 14th and 16th birthday and including their sixteenth birthday.

Care experienced is a wider term that means any person who has experienced care under the age of 18. This is not the same thing as being a 'Child in Need'; to have experienced care there would generally need to be a court order for removal from the birth family. Anyone who does not fit into the 13-week rule above and does not receive support from the local authority, but has at some point been removed from their birth parents would be considered care experienced. This could be for example if you have been adopted if you have a formal kinship care arrangement, or you experienced care before fourteen or after sixteen.

We recognise that many care experienced people face the same challenges to care leavers but do not receive local authority support. We will include care experienced students for bursary allocation if they fit the other criteria for the bursary listed below.

The bursary is part funded by charitable donations from alumni and friends of the University who donate in support of current students.

The fund is managed by the Alumni Engagement and Development team, and the bursary is overseen by the Student Experience and Engagement team. All students who declare their status as a care leaver or care experienced either through UCAS or the Online Registration will need to be verified by the Student Experience and Engagement team before being awarded.

2. Value

Every eligible student will be awarded a £1,000 cash bursary each year of the minimum duration of their course. Part-time students will have access to the same amount as full-time students, but their awards will be pro-rated over the scheduled minimum duration of their courses.

For example, if a student was studying a part time undergraduate course over 5 years, they would receive £3,000 in total over the five years (i.e. £600 per year paid in two instalments of £300 per in trimesters one and two).

How many?

All verified care leavers or care experienced students who fit the eligibility criteria will be supported by the University.

3. Eligibility

To receive the £1000 bursary, (paid in two instalments of £500, one in trimester one and one in trimester two), students must meet all the following criteria:

- Verified as a care leaver or eligible care experienced student by the Student Experience and Support team.
- Be studying a course either delivered by the University on the University's main campus (including Media City) or at a UK partner college: Salford City College, Bury College or Hopwood Hall.
- Must be classed as a Home (England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands, Isle of Man or Republic of Ireland) for fee purposes.
- Must have consented to the sharing of data submitted to the Student Loans Company.
- Must have been resident in the UK during the period of care (i.e. England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland also included is Republic of Ireland).
- Must have met the required progression criteria for their course and successfully progress to the next level of study.
- Must not have been previously registered with the University for any course except where the student is progressing from a foundation course to the first year of an undergraduate course (level 4).

For the 2021/22 academic year:

- Have registered for and be starting a full-time or part-time undergraduate course at level 4 (first year) to be delivered by the University at its main campus or a UK partner college AND must be paying the maximum undergraduate fee of £9,250 per year. This includes those students on a Higher National Certificate (HNC) course.

OR

- Have registered for and be starting a foundation course (level 3) to be delivered by the University at its main campus or at a UK partner college: Salford City College or Hopwood Hall.

Bursaries will be awarded to those who meet the eligibility criteria at the University at the time of allocation.

Those not eligible for this bursary:

- Students who have been looked after by family members or legal guardians (without the involvement of their LA), have a residency order, or have been given accommodation or supported housing by a charity.
- Students who are not classed as home for fees purposes, or whose fee status is unresolved.
- Students who were not ordinarily resident in the UK (i.e. England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland) or the Republic of Ireland.
- Students studying on a degree apprenticeship course.
- Students in receipt of the Estrangement Summer Bursary.
- Students deferring entry – subject to awards still being available, students holding offers for a deferred entry will be considered for an award the year they start their course.
- Students studying at postgraduate level.

4. Verification of care leaver/ care experienced (including kinship care) status

- Verification will be undertaken by the Student Experience and Engagement team, who will cross reference information provided through UCAS and Online Registration. Each student who has declared their status will be invited to attend a welcome session to verify their status and discuss their personalised learning support and eligibility for the Care Leavers' Bursary.
- Students who have self-declared as a care leaver or care experienced will be asked to provide evidence that they have been in care. For a care leaver this should be a matter of providing the letter that was submitted to the SLC from your local authority. If you are care experienced or do not have a relationship with your local authority, then you may need to either make contact with them again to write a letter stating that you are care experienced or provide another form of evidence such as adoption papers or court order papers. If you are finding it difficult to find evidence the Care Experience team in askUS should be able to help you if you contact us early enough.
- If the student is unable to provide the evidence asked for, the Student Experience and Support team will discuss this in further detail at the welcome session.
- The scheduled welcome sessions will involve the Alumni Engagement and Development team. All bursary holders are invited to attend the team's events to celebrate their achievements with alumni and friends of the University.

5. Use of awards

Awards are not transferable.

6. Payment

- Payments are expected to be made by the end of the November in the first trimester of study, and April in the second trimester of study.
- All cash payments are paid by BACS into a UK bank account only.
- The account must be held either solely or jointly in the name of the registered student. Payments cannot be made into the account of another person.
- It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that they provide up-to-date bank details to the University in enough time for the payments to be made.
- If a student does not provide their bank details by 30 November 2021, they will not receive the first £500 instalment. If they do not provide them before the 30 April 2022, they will not receive the second instalment.

7. Withdrawal or freezing of the award

- Changing a course and starting again at level 3 (foundation year) or 4 (first year undergraduate). Students who, having started a course, subsequently change courses starting again at either level 3 or 4, will not be eligible for the award against the new course. The original award will remain, but there will be no second payment against the new course. Once the student progresses onto the next level up they will be eligible for the appropriate award to be made for that year of study.
- Temporary breaks in study. Students who arrange with the University to interrupt or leave their course on a temporary basis will have their award frozen until they resume studies.
- Suspension of study. If students are suspended by the University, their award will be frozen until the suspension has been lifted.
- Repeat/extended study. Repeat periods of study and temporary breaks in study that lead to repeat periods of study will not qualify for any additional award. The award entitlement is for the scheduled minimum duration of the course and is not extended for any student.
- Leaving or being removed from the course. Students who leave or are removed from their courses will not be expected to repay the amount of their awards which have already been spent. However, the accounts of these students will be closed and any remaining award will not be available to them and entitlement to all future payments will stop on the date they leave or are removed.
- In accordance with the Student Privacy Policy, the askUS team and the Schools will need to liaise to verify student status and eligibility to receive payment.