

Care Experienced Students Guide

Academic Year
2023-24

MAKING
LEARNING
WORK

Forth
Valley
College



CARE EXPERIENCED STUDENTS GUIDE

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24

Care experienced students who are studying a Full-Time Further Education (FE) course (up to SCQF level 6), can apply for the Care Experienced Bursary. Students who are studying a Full-Time Higher Education (HE) course (SCQF level 7 or above) should apply to SAAS for their equivalent funding.

WHAT IS THE CARE EXPERIENCED BURSARY?

The Care Experienced Bursary is a maintenance bursary which is paid to help students with their living costs while studying. The bursary rate for Academic Session 2023-24 is £225 per week. This bursary is not-means assessed which means there will be no deduction made to the weekly award based on the student's/parent(s)/partner's income.

However, if you are awarded the Care Experienced Bursary and apply for other funds (e.g. travel, study materials, housing or childcare) they will be means-assessed as they would for any other student. See the Student Funding Guide 2023-24 for more information.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE CARE EXPERIENCED BURSARY?

You may be eligible for the Care Experienced Bursary if you are:

- Care experienced,
- A care leaver,
- A 'looked-after-child', OR
- Have been an informal care arrangement

AND

- Beyond the statutory school leaving age.

CATEGORIES OF CARE EXPERIENCE

These are the categories or types of care experience which, if you have been the subject of, or have experience of, are likely to mean you are eligible to receive the Care Experienced Bursary.

- Permanence order,
- Foster care,
- Residential care, residential schools and secure units,
- Kinship care,
- Compulsory Supervision Order with no condition of residence (Looked after at home),
- Compulsory Supervision Order with a condition of residence (Looked after away from home)
- Informal Care Arrangements (which can be confirmed by either the Local Authority or Social Work Department)

If your circumstances are not described above, or you are unsure if you meet one of the criteria, please contact Student Funding for help.

WHAT EVIDENCE WILL I BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT?

When applying for funding, you must provide evidence to support the information you provide. If you have declared yourself as care experienced then you must upload evidence of this to your funding application.

In most cases this should be a letter from a care worker, social work department, or your local authority. This letter should be headed, and include your name, date of birth, the category of care you have experience of (see above) and the relevant dates of the care experience.

OTHER SUPPORT AVAILABLE

In addition to financial support, you can also **access a range of other resources** through the Support and Guidance Team.

MAKING LEARNING WORK



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