Care Experienced and Looked After Young People

Advice and Support
Accommodation

The one thing that students comment on most at the University of Stirling is the sense of community. As one of the smaller sized universities in Scotland students from all different backgrounds come together on a beautiful campus and are able to settle in and make friends easily.

There is student accommodation on and off campus, guaranteed throughout the year for Care Leavers. Support and advice are close at hand to help you whenever you need it. You can talk to our student money advisers, gain support from the disability team or simply go to the Students’ Union and introduce yourself.

Finance

We support anyone thinking of coming to university all the way through to graduation and beyond. The main types of support offered to students with a background in care are listed below.

Pre-application and transition support

Our advisers will provide information, advice and guidance to anyone interested in applying to university. This can include help to choose a course, to find the right route into university or even how to write a personal statement. This support extends through the application process and into making the transition into university and your first weeks on campus.

Personal tutor

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Meet the team

Amanda Brown

I am a local girl who went to a local school where not many people went on to university. At the end of S6 I decided to study for a degree in Business Studies with French at the University of Stirling. During my studies I changed degree twice and ended up graduating with a degree in Management. I now have the privilege of working at the university to help students realise their potential to study at university.

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Open Day / Applicant Day

Most students will come to an Open Day. This is a large event where the university opens its doors and welcomes in excess of 3,000 people on campus in a day. It includes subject specific sessions and information sessions on everything from finance and accommodation to student life. Just register online and we will tell you everything you need to know.

Applicant Days are run for those students who have been made an offer by the university. This is like a smaller, and more dedicated, version of an Open Day with around 1,000 people on campus each day. Applicant Days help you see what life as a student in a particular subject would be like, including information on degree programmes, the chance to meet staff and students in your subject area, and to find out more about the practical side of student life.

If you are coming on your own to either of these events, or are unsure of what to do on the day, get in touch once you have registered online and we can make sure you get the most out of your visit – cli@stir.ac.uk.

For more information - http://stir.ac.uk/65

What is university like?

How do I find out about university?

Get in touch – it is as easy as that!

Dedicated Advisers

There are two members of staff who act as a dedicated point of contact for Care Experienced students and their supporters. All contact is confidential and impartial and, with your permission, will help smooth the transition by putting you in contact with the right people to ensure you get the support you need.

Tracey Kerr – 01786 467045 / Amanda Brown - 01786 466658

Email – cli@stir.ac.uk

Come and see what it is like

If you can, we recommend that you come and see us. We can arrange individual visits for you and a friend, adviser or parent/guardian to introduce you to the university and answer any questions you might have. You may want to find out more about a particular subject, get advice about your qualifications or find out what specific support you could receive. Maybe you just want to see the campus. All you have to do is email us and we will do the rest.

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What support can I get?

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University student support

There is a range of support provided to make sure you enjoy your time at university:

- **Accommodation** – students with a care background can take advantage of a guarantee of accommodation on campus throughout their time at university, including during the holidays. In addition our Accommodation Services team are happy to provide one-to-one support.

- **Finance** – we would advise students to make contact with our Student Money Advisers as soon as possible, even before you begin your studies with us. Our advisers can help you to budget, manage your money and advise you on any additional sources of finance you may be entitled to.

- **Disability support** – our Disability Advisers offer one-to-one information, support and guidance before you arrive and throughout your time at university to assess what you might need and help you to access it.

- **Personal tutor** – personal tutors help students feel part of the university community. They are your first point of contact for everything from academic guidance to personal advice throughout your studies.

- **STEER** – our peer mentoring programme offers one-to-one support from a current student within your subject or division for your first year of study.

- **Students’ Union** – the Union provides support and guidance on issues ranging from academic to housing to finance; provided by trained student volunteers who are on hand to talk through any issues you may face whilst at university.

What our students say

The endless opportunities that I have been given is something I really didn’t expect when I began my journey at university. My confidence has grown so much, I have gained so much valuable experience and all while doing something I enjoy so much. Coming to university has completely transformed my whole life.

Shumela Ahmed, Journalism Studies and Politics

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“...
Committed to supporting Care Leavers

The University of Stirling is committed to supporting and encouraging Care Experienced and Looked After Young People into Higher Education. Listed below is just some of the help available to those who support and advise students with a background in care.

Support for Support Workers

Our advisers will provide information, advice and guidance to anyone working with students from a looked after or care background. This may simply be to provide a specific point of contact for enquiries through to training sessions on supporting students through the application process.

There is a range of support we can provide:

- **Parent / guardian** – specific information for parents and guardians about the UCAS application process and life at university
- **Support staff / advisers training** – the University can provide training sessions on reading admissions, how to fill in the UCAS application form and supporting students in how to choose the correct course and/or institution
- **Campus visits** – if you would like to find out more about the university we can provide tailored visits to the campus. This could include, if required, time to meet with relevant support staff in Accommodation, Student Support, Disability Support and/or Admissions.