

**Support for
students who are**

Carers

UNIVERSITY OF THE
WEST of SCOTLAND
UWS



**FIND YOUR
PLACE**



UWS recognises the many commitments that student carers have alongside their studies as one of our widening access student groups and is committed to supporting student carers throughout their university journey.

We have a dedicated WeCare Team who offers a wide range of support for students and works with university services and partner organisations, to ensure that all students fulfil their potential, achieve their goals and enjoy their time at UWS.

UWS works closely with a range of external organisations supporting unpaid carers and was proud to be awarded the Going Higher for Carers in Scotland Award for Higher Education Institutions in 2021 from the Carers Trust Scotland.



Who are Student Carers?

The Scottish Funding Council defines a student carer as:

"Anyone who cares, unpaid, for a friend or relative who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support".



UWS WeCare Team

The UWS WeCare Team is your first point of contact as a student carer.

The WeCare Team is a dedicated team who are there to support care-experienced students, estranged students, and student carers. Support includes:

Pre-entry
advice and
guidance

1 to 1 appointments
(face to face or online)

**Transition
support**

Bespoke
campus
visits

**Outreach
calls**

**Signposting to
relevant services
and organisations**

**Regular
emails sharing
relevant
updates**

**Funding
opportunities
and events**

Ongoing support
throughout your
studies

The Team can act as a liaison with the other student services and contacts including:

- Personal Tutors and course lecturers
- Funding and Advice
- Academic Study Skills
- Accommodation
- Counselling and Wellbeing
- Careers Advice
- Disability Service
- Student Admin and IT
- International Advice

As well as the university's Student Success and Early Intervention Teams should you need additional support. Your named contacts in the UWS WeCare Team for student carers are: Alison Hillis, Kayleigh McArthur, Chloe Shields and Stephanie Lang.

You can contact the UWS WeCare Team by email at:
WeCare@uws.ac.uk



**Meet the
WeCare
team**



Pre-entry Support and Contextual Admissions

If you are thinking of applying to UWS or have already applied, the UWS WeCare Team are here to help you throughout the admissions process and help you get ready for university study.

Tick the Box

We encourage all applicants to 'tick the box' on your university application or at enrolment to indicate that you are an unpaid carer – this allows us to identify you and ensure you are receiving appropriate support, should you wish to receive this.

Contextual Entry Requirements

UWS is committed to widening access and supporting students into higher education who have not had an equal opportunity to demonstrate their academic ability in school or college.

Each UWS undergraduate degree has a 'standard entry requirement' and a 'minimum entry requirement' – applicants who are young carers (age 25 and under) are entitled to consideration for entry against the 'minimum entry requirement' grades.

We also support applicants who have 'non-standard' qualification combinations and accept a range of widening access qualifications including UWS Foundation Academy, Top Up, LEAPS, Foundation Apprenticeships and SWAP.

If you are unsure about whether your current or pending qualifications meet the minimum entry requirements for your chosen course, please reach out and we would be happy to help.

Transition Support

During the admissions process, we will reach out to applicants who have 'ticked the box' to indicate they are an unpaid carer, to offer dedicated support, including the opportunity to meet us on a 1 to 1 basis for an informal chat, either online or in person.

We are happy to arrange a campus tour with our team, to allow you to see our fantastic facilities and become familiar with the university environment ahead of joining us as a student.

Offer holders who are carers are also invited to a WeCare Transition event during the summer, before the new academic year begins, to allow you to find out about the support available, meet the team and other new students and prepare for starting university.



Ongoing support for Student Carers

Careers and Academic Skills Advice

The UWS Careers Team offer advice, guidance and resources to develop and enhance academic and practical skills for success at university and beyond. UWS graduates are entitled to Careers Advice support for up to 5 years after graduation.

Counselling and Wellbeing

The University's Counselling and Wellbeing Service offers 1 to 1 appointments with a trained counsellor should you wish to speak to someone. Students may also access online support resource Silver Cloud, providing free access to tailored Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) programmes. You can also contact the UWS out of hours student helpline which is free, confidential and available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Disability Support

If you have a disability, a long-standing medical condition or a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, the Disability Service can help you make the most of your time at UWS. We recommend reaching out to request support as early as possible before starting your studies with us. For more information or to arrange a meeting with an adviser please email: **disabilityservice@uws.ac.uk**

Funding and Advice

UWS have a dedicated Funding and Advice Team who can help you understand funding available to you to help you with the cost of your studies and help you to plan ahead and create a budget for your time as a student, allowing you to focus on your studies and enjoy your time at university.

The Funding and Advice Team welcome enquiries from prospective students, to book an appointment with an advisor please email: **fundingadvice@uws.ac.uk**

Contact us

Remember, you can let us know if you are an unpaid carer

- during the application stage by ticking the box on your university application
- by ticking the box during your enrolment
- at any point during your studies by contacting the UWS WeCare Team

If you have any questions or would like to speak to the UWS WeCare Team, please email: **WeCare@uws.ac.uk**

Scan the QR code to find out more about the dedicated support on offer at UWS:







WeCare@uws.ac.uk

