

**Support for
students who are**

**Care
Experienced**

UNIVERSITY OF THE
WEST of SCOTLAND
UWS



**FIND YOUR
PLACE**

UWS is committed to supporting care experienced students throughout their university journey.

To meet this commitment, 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 as a Corporate Parent has a strong tradition of working with care experienced applicants and students, this commitment is embedded in all of our provision. The UWS Corporate Parenting Plan outlines the continued commitment to supporting care experienced students.



Scan the QR code to read the Corporate Parenting Plan

Who are Care Experienced Students?

The Scottish Funding Council defines a care-experienced student as:

"Anyone who has been or is currently in care or from a looked after background at any stage in their life, no matter how short, including adopted children who were previously looked-after. This care may have been provided in one of many different settings such as in residential care, foster care, kinship care, or through being looked-after at home with a supervision requirement".



UWS WeCare Team

The UWS WeCare Team is your first point of contact as a care-experienced student.

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 care-experienced students 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 care experienced applicants to 'tick the box' on your university application or at enrolment to indicate that you are care-experienced – 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.

Care-experienced applicants who meet the minimum entry requirements are guaranteed an offer of place on an undergraduate degree, provided that the course is running and has sufficient places.

Each UWS undergraduate degree has a 'standard entry requirement' and a 'minimum entry requirement' all care-experienced applicants are entitled for 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 care-experienced applicants who have 'ticked the box' 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.

Care-experienced applicants may apply for a financial travel contribution to attend UWS Open Days and Offer Holder Events.

Care-experienced offer holders 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

Accommodation

Care-experienced students have priority access to UWS student accommodation, 365 days of the year. UWS offers all care experienced students the opportunity to receive a Student Accommodation Starter Kit in their initial year of studying at the university. The starter kit includes all essentials, including bedding, towels and kitchen items. To apply for student accommodation or to find out more, please contact: accommodation@uws.ac.uk / 0141 848 3159.

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.

Funding Opportunities

The WEST (Widening Education and Supporting Talent) Scholarship Programme is available to care-experienced students studying at undergraduate and postgraduate level at UWS. From £1,250 per year, up to a maximum of £5,000 over four years.

There are a limited number of scholarships available each year and students must submit an application form around the start of October.

UWS also offers Discretionary & Childcare Funds to help you during your studies. A discretionary fund is money which can be given to students who experience financial difficulty whilst studying.

Care-experienced students are a priority group for the fund and the UWS Funding and Advice team can support you with your application.

For Scottish students, the Students Award Agency Scotland (SAAS) offers a non-repayable bursary of £9,000 if you are a new or continuing care experienced student.

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

Student Life

The Care Experienced and Estranged Student Society provides peer support for all care-experienced students and creates a sense of belonging and family when we need it.

Please reach out to the UWS Student Association for more information on how to get involved: uwsunion@uws.ac.uk

Student Ambassador

The Student Ambassador role is a paid opportunity where students can work to support university events such as Open Days and work with prospective students at the university, all whilst gaining experience and developing key skills.

Care-experienced students who are interested in applying to become a Student Ambassador are guaranteed an interview for the role.

Look out for the next recruitment round for Student Ambassadors on the UWS website, student app and social media to find out more and apply.



Contact us

Remember, you can let us know if you are care-experienced

- 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:



Scan QR code to read the UWS Corporate Parenting Plan online:





WeCare@uws.ac.uk

