

Care Experienced Students

The information on this page is for young people who are thinking of applying to Warwick as an Undergraduate student for 2024 entry and are [care experienced](#). If you are planning to apply elsewhere, we would encourage you to contact your university choices to see what support is available to you.

1. Care Experienced definition

If you are 'Care Experienced', this means that you have been looked after for at least 3 months at any point in your childhood. This care may have been provided in many different settings, including:

- **Living with foster carers**
- **Living in a residential children's home**
- **Being looked after at home under a supervision order**
- **Living with relatives under a guardianship agreement**

If you were in the care of your local authority for at least 13 weeks at any time since the age of 14, and were in care on your 16th birthday, please take a look at our [information for Care Leavers](#) or if you are not in contact with both of your parents (known as 'estranged'), please go to our [Independent students who are estranged](#) webpage.

2. Applying to University

Students apply to university through the UCAS application form. This form includes your personal details, personal circumstances (this is where you can tell your university choices that you have been in care), educational history, predicted grades (where applicable), your course choices, your personal statement and your reference.

We would encourage you to tick the 'care experienced' tick-box on the UCAS form so that your university choices are notified of your circumstances and can offer you appropriate support, information and guidance. You can find out more about this tick-box online [here](#).

Evidence

The universities you apply to may ask you to provide evidence of your care experience so that appropriate support can be arranged for you. At Warwick, we advise students to provide evidence such as:

- **A signed letter or email from your school, social worker or personal advisor confirming you are care experienced**
- **A copy of a letter/certificate of adoption**
- ***If you were adopted at a young age, we are also able to accept other forms of evidence that confirm you were in care for 3 or more months (in the UK or abroad)***

If you have applied to Warwick and have any questions about providing evidence, please contact our WP Lifecycle Team at lifecycleteam@warwick.ac.uk.

Please have a look at the links below for more information about applying to university:

- [Care Experienced students](#)
- [How to apply](#)
- [When to apply](#)
- [Choosing a course](#)
- [Personal statements](#)
- [Individual needs/support](#)

3. Applying for Student Finance

You can apply to Student Finance England (or the equivalent awarding body in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland) for financial support with your tuition fees and living costs.

Tuition Fee Loans: These loans are paid directly to your university.

Maintenance Loans: These loans are means-tested (based on your household income) and are paid to you.

To apply for financial support, you will need to complete an online application form and submit details of your household income (usually your parent's/guardian's income). ***If you are a care leaver or you are estranged from both of your parents, you can be assessed as an 'independent student' instead. There is more information about this on our webpages for [care leavers](#) and [estranged students](#).***

For more information about Student Finance, please go to:

- [UCAS](#)
- [Student Finance England](#)
- [Student Finance information for Care Leavers](#)
- [Student Finance information for Estranged Students](#)

4. Support from Warwick for Care Experienced Students

Students who are care experienced are able to access a wide range of support from Warwick. This support includes:

Support	Webpage
A Contextual Offer for successful applicants	https://warwick.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/apply/contextual-offers/

A Personal Tutor who you can reach out to for additional support while you study at Warwick	https://warwick.ac.uk/services/dean-of-students-office/informationforstudents/
Student Funding Support such as the Warwick Bursary of up to £2,000 per year (this is a means-tested bursary based on your household income)	https://warwick.ac.uk/services/wss/funding/
Wellbeing Support	https://warwick.ac.uk/services/wss/
Disability Services	https://warwick.ac.uk/services/wss/students/disability/
Accommodation Support from the Residential Community Team	https://warwick.ac.uk/services/rescommunity
Student Advice Centre	https://www.warwicksu.com/help-support/
<i>Full details of the support available can be found on our 'Care Experienced Students' webpage: https://warwick.ac.uk/study/outreach/disruptededucation/careexperienced/</i>	

5. Further support

If you have any questions about the support available to Care Experienced students at Warwick, please contact our WP Lifecycle Team at lifecycleteam@warwick.ac.uk.

The following links may also be helpful:

- [Become](#) – a charity for children in care and young care leavers
- [Buttle UK](#) – a charity providing funding for young people
- [EaCES Handbook](#) – provides support and signposting to estranged students and care experienced students
- [IMO](#) – provides a range of support to care experienced teenagers
- [Propel](#) – education/university support for care experienced young people
- [Rees Foundation](#) – support for care experienced adults