



UCP-FIN002 Higher Education Care Leavers Support and Bursary Procedure

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 University Centre Peterborough (UCP) is committed to providing students from a Care experienced background with the support they need to enjoy a successful university experience. As such, UCP has introduced a care leavers bursary as part of its student support package.
- 1.2 This document sets out the process from marketing, application and issuing of the non-means tested Care Leavers Bursary.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1 UCP Student Support has oversight of all decision making on Care Leaver bursary applications. UCP Student Support administer the application, review and payment to Peterborough, Stamford Campus, Eastern School of Performing Arts (ESPA) and Addict Dance Academy students. The Care Leaver Bursary is available to undergraduate UCP students who meet the eligibility requirements outlined in this procedure.
- 2.2 This policy does not apply to students that are studying towards a micro-credential.

3. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- IEG-GDPR01 Data Protection Policy
www.ieg.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/13.-Annex-10b_IEG-Data-Protection-Policy.pdf
- UCP-FIN001 Higher Education Tuition Fee Policy www.ucp.ac.uk/policies/
- Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/35/contents>
- Other sources of Information and Advice:
 - Propel.org.uk – Higher Education Website for Care
 - Leavers by the Who Cares Trust: www.becomecharity.org.uk/
 - Care Leavers Association: www.careleavers.com/

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1 The Academic Director has overall responsibility for the procedure, but has delegated day-to-day responsibility for overseeing its implementation to the staff identified.
- 4.1 All relevant members of staff have been made aware of the procedure and have received appropriate training.

5. RISK ANALYSIS

UCP is committed to the provision of comprehensive, open and transparent information ensuring accurate, relevant, and current procedures are followed enabling applicants to make an informed

decision. Failure to have this procedure in place or non-adherence may result in

inconsistent practices leading to dissatisfaction and poor reputation as well as failure to demonstrate the expected baseline regulatory requirements of a HE provider

6. DATA PROTECTION

6.1 In order to apply this procedure, UCP may record details of the amounts paid to students and it will store that data for a period of six years. Information collected is treated as confidential by all staff involved in this process and is not divulged unnecessarily or inappropriately. UCP may be required to release certain information to UK authorities upon request in order to assist those authorities with the prevention and detection of fraud or other crimes. We will release the requested information on receipt of an appropriate request from UK authorities such as (but not limited to) the police, Home Office (for immigration and related matters), local authorities, and the Department for Work and Pensions. We may use anonymised data collected as part of an individual's application for the purpose of fulfilling statistical and reporting requirements.

7. DEFINITIONS

- 7.1 A Care Leaver is defined by the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 as someone who has been looked after by a local authority for a period (prescribed under the regulations as 13 weeks), or periods amounting to this, which began after they reached 14 years of age and ended after they reached the age of 16.
- 7.2 A new entrant is defined as a student who has applied and is enrolled on a course for the first time at UCP. This includes students who have studied on a Foundation degree or HNC/D who apply and enrol to 'top-up' onto a bachelor's degree.

8 PROCEDURE

Support for Care Leaver Students

- 8.1 UCP recognises that when applying and entering higher education care experienced young people face particular difficulties that their peers are less likely to experience. This guidance explains some of the specific help available to a care leaver or those who have experienced living in a care environment.
- 8.2 Once a student has been accepted on a course at UCP, we offer Care Leavers optional one-to-one meetings with a member of UCP Student Support staff or nominee. They will give guidance, which includes advice about disability, and additional needs support, accommodation and advice on student finance.
- 8.3 A student can also make an appointment with a Student Advisor by visiting the UCP Support Centre, emailing support@ucp.ac.uk or telephoning 01733 214466.

Eligibility for the Care Leaver Bursary

- 8.4 In order to access this support, students must have identified themselves as Care Leavers in their UCAS, Student Finance and enrolment form.
- 8.5 To be eligible, a student must meet the following criteria:
- Is a new entrant to a course in the current academic year
 - is under 25 years of age on the first day of the first academic year of their course (1st September);

- is a student enrolled and in attendance on an undergraduate course at UCP;
- have been looked after by a local authority for a period (prescribed under the regulations as 13 weeks), or periods amounting to this, which began after they reached 14 years of age and ended after they reached the age of 16;
- they must not be living with parents or receiving any financial support from parents;
- be a UK national, or have 'settled status' (no restrictions on how long they can stay) or be an EU national with 'leave to remain';
- live in England, and have ordinarily been a resident in England for three years prior to the course start date. International students are not eligible to apply for this award;
- have supplied UK bank account details.

Care Leaver Application

- 8.6 In order to apply for the Care Leaver bursary, students must declare care leaver status on the Student Finance application and ensure that consent to share application details with the HE Provider is given.
- 8.7 Students may be eligible to apply for this award in future academic years, however this is subject to funds being made available and is not guaranteed. Bursaries are reviewed on a regular basis and UCP reserves the right to withdraw, amend or introduce new bursaries at any time.
- 8.8 Students are required to submit evidence to Student Finance England to confirm their care leaver status when they apply for the bursary and all payments are paid directly by Student Finance England.
- 8.9 The deadline for applying for the Care Leaver Bursary is week 11 of the students first semester of the academic year.
- 8.10 Bursaries must be assessed and paid within the academic year and cannot be backdated for previous years.

Payment of the Care Leaver Bursary

- 8.11 Payments will only be to students who are enrolled and attending at UCP (on either campus or with its partners) on an undergraduate course and have provided SFE with evidence of care leaver status by the deadline specified in their award email.
- 8.12 The full time £500 bursary is paid in one instalment in the current academic year. Part time student's bursary payment will be pro-rata i.e., a student studying 90 credits will receive £375 paid in one instalment.
- 8.13 Payments will be made directly to the UK bank account registered with SFE. Failure to provide SFE with current valid UK Bank account details will result in delayed payment.

Withdrawal of Care Leaver Bursary

- 8.14 UCP reserves the right to withdraw a bursary from anyone who is found to have misled UCP or SFE about any aspect of their eligibility and to seek repayment of any monies already paid by appropriate means.
- 8.15 Payment will not be made to students on a placement year or if a student has been notified that they have not yet met the criteria to progress to the next level of study.
- 8.16 If a student changes to a different mode of study, their eligibility for a bursary is reviewed. Bursary payments made prior to changing to part-time will not be requested to be repaid. However, entitlement to all future bursary payments is reviewed. If the bursary has not been paid, prior to changing mode the bursary amount is recalculated based on the total credit weighting of modules the student studies in the academic year.
- 8.17 Students who commence their studies and subsequently make an alteration that involves starting again on a course will not be eligible for a new award against the new course.
- 8.18 A student who intermits from their study at UCP and who is in receipt of a bursary award will cease to receive bursary payments. Bursary payments made prior to intermitting will not be requested to be repaid.
- 8.19 A student who withdraws from their course and who is in receipt of the bursary will not normally be requested to repay bursary payments made up to the point of withdrawal. However, entitlement to all future bursary payments cease immediately when a student withdraws.

8.20 UCP recognises that young people who are care leavers, can face additional challenges than their peers. We offer pre-entry advice and guidance through outreach events and work with organisations to provide support and information for care leavers.

