



Edinburgh College

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# CARE EXPERIENCED AT EDINBURGH COLLEGE

A guide for Care Experienced students on what support is available to you during your studies.

For the future you want



# Care Experienced at Edinburgh College

## What does being care experienced mean?

Care Experienced individuals may have been, or are currently in, the following situations:

- **Foster care**  
Living with another family.
- **Residential care**  
Living in a children's unit.
- **Kinship care**  
Living with friends or relatives.
- **Care leaver**  
Someone leaving care or no longer in care, and under the age of 26.
- **At home**  
Living with parent(s), but with social work involvement.
- **Other**  
In a different community or with prospective adopters.

## Why should you tell us if you are care experienced?

If you decide to tell us that you are care experienced, you will be completely in control of your information. This is yours to share, it's your choice. We need to know you are care experienced to ensure you get the best learning and financial support that you are entitled to.

## Who can I speak to if I am care experienced?

You can speak to student services who will then direct you to the best person to speak to, or you can email:

[guidance@edinburghcollege.ac.uk](mailto:guidance@edinburghcollege.ac.uk)

## What is the care experience bursary?

In 2018-2019 the Scottish Government stated that its priority was to increase the rate of bursary funding for Care Experienced students. The Scottish Funding Council states that a student will be eligible to apply for the care experienced bursary if they:

- Have ever, at any time in their lives, been looked after by a Local Authority in the UK.
- Are beyond their statutory school leaving date.

**Higher Education (HE) students** should apply for their care experienced bursary through SAAS (they should contact SAAS directly if they have already made an application but did not include that they are care experienced).

**Further Education (FE) students** should apply online for bursary as normal, and should indicate on the further information page that they are care experienced. Students should tick the care experienced flag in the financial details page. Students do not need to provide household income information. Students will only be asked about any unearned income they are receiving, for example, benefits.

**In both instances**, the student will need to provide supporting evidence, such as a letter from the Council, a care organisation or similar official body.

From August 2021 Edinburgh College students who are in receipt of the Further Education Care Experienced Bursary will not have their funding impacted if they do not attend classes/engage in online learning. Students will be flagged as their attendance being a concern and robust procedures will be in place to engage with the students to explore reasons why. Staff will work pro actively with students and external partners to ensure support is in place and encourage the student to engage in their learning. Ultimately if this is unsuccessful the student will be withdrawn at the point of disengagement.

We are incredibly proud to be a Corporate Parent and are committed to fulfilling and exceeding our statutory duties under Part 9 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

We were incredibly proud to have received the Herald Higher Education Award for Widening Access in May 2021 for the work we do to support our Care Experienced students.



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## How can the college support you if you are care experienced?

### ■ Application support

We can support you through the application process for funding, childcare, and accommodation where required.

### ■ Priority for funding

If you have indicated on your course application that you are care experienced, and you have submitted all of the required evidence for funding, then the college will deal with your application as a priority.

### ■ Additional support

We can discuss any additional support needs you might have.

### ■ Contact with one person

We can allocate a named person that you can contact during your time at college who understands your individual situation and needs and can provide ongoing guidance throughout your time at college.

### ■ Wellbeing and Mental Health Support

The College has a Wellbeing Team who can provide a range of options to support students who are struggling with issues such as anxiety, low mood, relationship difficulties, and bereavement, among others. The options include booking a one-to-one meeting with a Wellbeing Adviser and group wellbeing sessions or workshops. There is also access to a wide range of online resources and apps to promote positive wellbeing, as well as a Counselling Service available which offers students up to 6 weekly sessions.

### ■ Learning Support

We can help you to access any additional support you may need perhaps you had support in your exams at school, for example a reader, extra time, separate accommodation. If you think you might need this at college. You can email: [learning.support@edinburghcollege.ac.uk](mailto:learning.support@edinburghcollege.ac.uk)

### ■ Learning Development Tutors

A point of contact for most students on full time courses. Learning Development Tutors are responsible for supporting the development of employability and transferable skills whilst supporting the student's personal progress via a weekly tutorial/drop in and 1-2-1 meetings. The Learning Development Tutor is a support role within the College that ensures effective partnership working both internally and externally.

### ■ Unaccompanied Young People

Edinburgh College's Student Safeguarding and Welfare Lead is the designated lead for care experienced unaccompanied young people. They provide support to students, social work and other organisations by being the key contact at college, attending LAAC reviews and assisting with any questions, issues or problems. This support is provided to help the students and staff involved navigate the extra processes and policies that apply to unaccompanied young people during their studies. Please email: [Kara.Tait@edinburghcollege.ac.uk](mailto:Kara.Tait@edinburghcollege.ac.uk)



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[guidance@edinburghcollege.ac.uk](mailto:guidance@edinburghcollege.ac.uk)

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Charity number SCO21213

Our course portfolio and campus allocation  
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