

Support for care experienced students

What is meant by care experienced

Who Cares Scotland (www.whocarescotland.org) explains the term “care experienced” as referring to anyone who has been, or is currently in care. This care may have been provided in many different settings, such as

- Kinship care – living with a relative who is not your mum or dad.
- Looked after at home – with the help of social work.
- Residential care – living in a residential unit or school.
- Foster care – living with foster carers.
- Secure care – living in a secure unit.
- Adoption (where previously were in a looked after setting)

If you have been in care (residential, foster care, kinship care for example) at any point in your life then you are entitled to some additional support during your time in college. There is a named person – Meredyth Reynolds – who can support you and help with accessing any services that you need. You can contact her by email at meredyth.reynolds@uhi.ac.uk.

UHI Argyll is a “Corporate Parent”, meaning that we are committed to supporting care experienced students. You can find out more about the college’s corporate parenting role and responsibilities in our [Corporate Parenting Plan](#) on the website.

It is important that you let us know as soon as possible if you are care experienced so that you can receive the support you are entitled to. You can do this by indicating it on your online enrolment, when you apply for your funding, or just by telling your PAT / Student Advisor or contacting our named Care Experienced Person, Meredyth. Your college experience will be the same as all other students, but you will be offered some extra support to allow you to get the very best from your time here. Available support includes:

- Emotional support and wellbeing if you are experiencing stress or difficulty in or outside of College offered via our Student Counsellor (contact at ACWellbeing@uhi.ac.uk).
- Support on a range of welfare, financial and education issues.
- Help through all information and procedures.
- Someone to talk to who understands your individual situation and needs.

Funding

If you are Care experienced then you could be eligible for the Care Experienced Bursary, which is £225 per week. You will need to get a form completed by a relevant person who can confirm your care status but this is easily done, and Meredyth can help you with this. You can contact Meredyth by email meredyth.reynolds@uhi.ac.uk.