

Support for Care Leavers in Higher Education

This support is applicable to care leaver students who are accessing higher education. Higher education is third level education after leaving school. It takes place at universities and normally includes undergraduate and postgraduate study as follows,

- Foundation degrees
- Undergraduate studies (Bachelors degrees)
- Postgraduate qualifications

Support for Care Leaver students in Higher education will receive the following support:

1. **Weekly living costs:** Based on the recommendations of the university the Student is attending cost will be paid to the Student whilst living in student accommodation. (this includes halls of residence or private shared accommodation) during term time.

If the student remains living in their student accommodation during the holiday period, the payments will continue during this time.

2. **Personal Allowance:** In addition to the university recommended weekly living costs the care leaver student will receive an additional personal allowance weekly in line with the current government guidance from DWP.

This will be paid to every student for 52 weeks per year for the duration of their course regardless of whether they are returning home or remain in student accommodation during the holiday periods.

3. Hampshire Children's services will offer up to a maximum of £1500 towards writing off any existing credit card debt **prior** to the care leaver attending university. Any remaining money from the £1500.00 will be held over and provided to the care leaver student when required or for emergencies. This is not a guaranteed payment. It is discretionary based on the assessment of the student with agreement of management in children services.
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