

University of Essex

Care Leaver and Estranged Bursary 2021/22

The University is offering a Care Leaver and Estranged Bursary to assist students who are care leavers or estranged students.

Terms and conditions

1. Eligibility

Below is a list of the full eligibility criteria for the Care Leaver and Estranged Bursary, you must meet all of the following criteria:

- You are a new or continuing full time or part-time **registered** student at the University of Essex in academic year 2020/21
- You are eligible for UK home fees and funding and ordinarily resident in the UK **(overseas and EU students are not eligible)**
- You are undertaking Undergraduate or Postgraduate study
- You were aged under 25 at the start of your current course

AND

- You have been 'looked after' for at least 13 weeks by a UK local authority at some point since you were 14 years old, and were in care on or after your sixteenth birthday;

OR

You are estranged from both parents/carers. By estranged we mean that either:

- You have not communicated with either of your biological or adoptive parents for a period of time before your course began
- Your parents cannot be traced or it is not possible, practical, or safe to make contact with them
- Your parents have significant mental or physical health problems which prevent you from contacting them
- Both of your biological or adoptive parents are deceased

Students who are not eligible

The following students are not eligible for this award regardless of meeting the above criteria:

- Students who are not in attendance and on an assessment only programme
- Students whose course is sponsored by an employer
- Students on a distance learning programme
- Students on unsubstantial part-time or short courses
- Students who are studying through a University of Essex Partner (e.g. Kaplan, University of Essex Online, Tavistock, etc.)
- Students on Higher/Degree Apprenticeship courses

2. Evidence

You **MUST** provide either evidence that you were in UK local authority care prior to starting your course or that you are estranged from both parents/carers.

Care Leaver:

A Care Leaver is defined as a person who, as a result of an order of a competent court, was in care for at least 3 months up to or after their 16th birthday and has not since been returned to the care of their parents.

Evidence would normally be a letter from your Personal Adviser/After Care Social Worker, other forms of evidence may be accepted.

Estranged Student

You need to provide evidence of 'genuine estrangement'. This can be any one of the following:

- letter from your social or Council support worker
- letter from a doctor that knows your situation
- police report showing any related incidents
- letter from a teacher or university/college lecturer that knows your situation
- letter from a 'person of good standing in the community' (for example a solicitor, religious leader or a counsellor, who is not related to you)
- letter from a housing organisation (if you were trying to find alternative accommodation)
- letter of support from a counselling or similar organisation who may have been helping with your estrangement
- A court order, showing you were trying to distance yourself from your parents
- A copy of a Confirmation of Estrangement form (SFE form) that has been submitted to and accepted by SFE.
- Email confirmation from SFE that you have been assessed as an independent student on the basis of estrangement.

Note: you will not be considered estranged simply on the basis that you live separately from your parents, have recently fallen out with your parents, or your parents are unwilling to complete income assessment forms or contribute towards your student finance.

If you are unable to provide this evidence you should contact the Funding Team for advice funding@essex.ac.uk

3. How to apply

Please note the application for the Bursary for 21/22 will close on 31st July 2022.

1. Ensure that you meet the eligibility criteria above
2. Carefully read these guidance notes
3. Register for the [Blackbullion](#) online money management website
4. Click the 'Funds' tab and select 'UoE Careleaver and Estranged Bursary'
5. Submit your Application form, Declaration and evidence

Note: your application will not be assessed until you have provided a signed declaration form and all evidence necessary to complete an assessment.

4. Assessment and Payment

Eligible full-time students will receive a bursary £1,000. Eligible part-time students will be awarded on a pro-rata basis, depending on the number of credits undertaken.

Payments will be processed in May of the academic year you are studying, for this year payment will be made in May 2022. Awards will be paid via BACS to your nominated bank account as stated in your application.

5. Can I hold this with other awards?

The Care Leaver and Estranged Bursary cannot be held in conjunction with the Refugee Bursary offered as part of the [University Access and Participation Plan](#) funding.

With the exception of the above, the Care Leaver and Estranged Bursary can be held in conjunction with other University awards that you may be eligible for, including financial support.

6. Appeals

If you are dissatisfied with the decision of your outcome of your application, you can appeal within 10 working days of your outcome email from Blackbullion. Appeals should be sent to the [Funding Team](#).

Your appeal will be considered at the discretion of the Student Services Manager or his/her nominee.

7. Resolution of disputes

Acceptance of the UoE Care Leaver and Estranged Bursary constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions. Registered students should contact the [Funding Team](#) in the first instance for guidance regarding this award. In cases not covered by the above terms and conditions, or where a student claims exceptional circumstances, or disputes a decision not to make payments due under this scheme, final appeals on decisions regarding eligibility must be made via the [Student Complaints process](#). The Academic Registrar or his/her nominee will review the case and his/her decision will be final.

NOTE: These terms and conditions apply to the UoE Care Leaver and Estranged Bursary awarded to students for the academic year 2021-22. The University of Essex reserves the right to update these terms and conditions as necessary.