
SUPPORT FOR PROSPECTIVE UNDERGRADUATE CARE-EXPERIENCED STUDENTS



**Student
Support
Services**

WELCOME TO ULAW

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FOR PROSPECTIVE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCE OF CARE AND HAVE LEFT OR ARE LEAVING THE CARE OF THEIR LOCAL AUTHORITY AND WHO ARE HOME STUDENTS (NOT EU OR INTERNATIONAL).

WHAT DOES THE TERM 'CARE EXPERIENCED' MEAN?

The term care leaver refers to a person under the age of 25 who has been in the care of their local authority for a period of at least 13 weeks before the age of 16. However, at the University of Law we recognise that any time spent in local authority care can have an impact on educational opportunities so we provide support to students who have spent **any** time in the care of their local authority. This is what we mean by 'care experienced'.

EVIDENCE THAT YOU'LL NEED TO PROVIDE TO ULAW

Once you have accepted your place at ULaw, you will need to provide evidence that you were looked after or given accommodation by your local authority. This evidence is usually a letter from your local council or care authority confirming that you were under their care but have now left.

You will only need to provide this evidence once. Although you can provide ULaw with this evidence at any point during the course, we encourage you to get this to us as early as possible so we can provide support from the outset.

If you think or know that you will be unable to provide this evidence, please contact the Welfare Service at your campus as soon as possible to discuss your individual circumstances. See the end of this leaflet for the contact details for all campus Welfare teams.

SUPPORT WE OFFER

- 1-1 pre-induction campus visit days: please contact Student Services at your campus to arrange this (email address for each campus can be found at the end of this leaflet)
- Appointments with the Welfare Service within the first month of your course start date. These appointments may be conducted face to face, on Skype or over the phone. During the appointment you will be introduced to the team and will have an opportunity to discuss any concerns you have as well as being informed about support on offer for you at ULaw during your studies.
- Contact with the Accommodation Officer for advice about accessing accommodation for 52 weeks of the year.
- Free Totum card. Totum is a student discount card and app which gives you access to exclusive student deals on food and fashion, tech and travel and everything in between. Your Welfare Team at your campus can help you apply for the card for free.
- Appointment with the Employability Service within 6 weeks of your course start date. This will enable you to access advice regarding interview skills, and how and where to search and apply for jobs. Please note that you do not have to wait for an appointment if you want to access this service before you start your course, you can contact employability@law.ac.uk. More information on our Employability Service can be found on our website
- Free interview clothes.
- Financial contribution towards graduation.
- Up to £2000 financial support package per academic year tailored to your needs, for example, free printing, supermarket vouchers, equipment vouchers, travel pass, guarantor fees etc.

APPRENTICESHIPS

If you are a student with care experience and have secured an apprenticeship, you are entitled to two £500 payments over the course of your first year of study to help with the transition into employment. For more information about this, please discuss with your employer directly.

CONTEXTUAL ADMISSIONS OFFERS

A contextual offer recognises the potential of students whose personal circumstances may have restricted achievement at school or college. At The University of Law we recognise that any time spent in local authority care can have an impact on educational opportunities. Your contextual offer is one grade lower than the typical offer shown on the course pages on our website or in our prospectus. Our contextual offers are for all our undergraduate courses (excluding our foundation degrees and apprenticeships). You can indicate your experience of care by ticking the relevant box on your UCAS form, in your personal statement or in your teacher reference.

USEFUL RESOURCES FOR EXTERNAL SUPPORT AND FUNDING GRANTS

Some local authorities provide bursaries to students who have left the care of their local authority to help with the cost of higher education. If you are unsure what support you may be entitled to from the government and your local authority, you may find the following websites useful:

Buttle UK
www.buttleuk.org

The Catch 22 National Care Advisory Service
www.leavingcare.org

The Care Leavers' Foundation
www.thecareleaversfoundation.org

Charity Become
www.becomecharity.org.uk

Drive Forward Foundation
www.driveforwardfoundation.com

STUDENT FINANCE ENGLAND FUNDING EXPLAINED

Students who are eligible for the tuition fee loan and are studying for their first undergraduate degree will not have to pay fees up front. A loan is available from the government to cover the cost of the university tuition so you don't have to find the money before or during your studies.

You will not have to start repaying this loan until you have finished the course and are earning over £27,295* a year.

Students who are eligible for the tuition fee loan can also apply for a maintenance loan. This loan is

for living costs such as helping to pay accommodation, course materials, travel, food etc.

Eligibility for this maintenance loan is dependent on a student's household income however, as students who are leaving the care of a local authority, you are classed as independent by Student Finance England. This means that your assessment for the maintenance loan would not be based on parental income and you should therefore receive the maximum amount.

ANY QUESTIONS?

If after reading this leaflet you still have questions about what support will be available to you at ULaw as a student

who has left the care of your local authority, please contact the Welfare team at your campus:

CAMPUS	WELFARE EMAIL	STUDENT INFORMATION EMAIL
Birmingham	welfare-birmingham@law.ac.uk	studentInfo-birmingham@law.ac.uk
Bristol	welfare-bristol@law.ac.uk	studentInfo-bristol@law.ac.uk
Guildford	welfare-guildford@law.ac.uk	studentInfo-guildford@law.ac.uk
Leeds	welfare-leeds@law.ac.uk	studentInfo-leeds@law.ac.uk
London Bloomsbury	welfare-london@law.ac.uk	studentInfo-bloomsbury@law.ac.uk
Manchester	welfare-manchester@law.ac.uk	studentInfo-manchester@law.ac.uk
Nottingham	welfare-nottingham@law.ac.uk	studentInfo-nottingham@law.ac.uk
Online	welfare-online@law.ac.uk	studentInfo-online@law.ac.uk

ENQUIRIES

0203 4354608 (UK)
+44 (0) 1483 216 000 (International)

study@law.ac.uk

law.ac.uk

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Before accepting any offer of a place at the University, applicants should thoroughly read the applicable terms and conditions available on our website: law.ac.uk/undergraduate/terms-and-conditions

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