

About the role

The charity

The Unite Foundation is an independent registered charity that runs a unique scholarship scheme, supporting estranged and care experienced students with the provision of a rent-free home at university.

Having somewhere of your own to call home matters. The Unite Foundation scholarship ensures students have a free, safe and secure home at university for up to 3 years, enabling them to progress through their course and complete their degree with the opportunity to make the most of everything university has to offer.

In 2020 we placed Unite Foundation students in the driving seat of the charity's communications through the creation of This is Us, giving our students the platform to own their own narrative and speak honestly about their university experiences and the role of 'home' within that.

Our ambition

In September 2021 we launched a [5 year strategy](#) and set out a clear vision; our goal is that free accommodation for estranged and care experienced students is provided as standard support across all UK universities.

In 2022 we commissioned a major piece of research to understand the impact of 10 years of the scholarship. We now have strong evidence that the scholarship helps estranged and care experienced students to progress all the way through university and complete their degree at almost the same rate as any other student. In other words, what we do works.

We are now embarking on our third year of the strategy, having grown considerably, carved out a position as experts in the area of a home at university and secured additional investment to support more scholarships for care experienced & estranged students in new universities; this is alongside the continued funding and support we receive from Unite Students, the charity's accommodation partner and principal corporate donor. This expansion will enable us to build on our evidence to make the case for a free home at university for everyone.

We're now working with over 30 universities across England and Scotland, we've awarded scholarships to over 700 care leavers and estranged young people and, alongside the management of the scholarship, we're supporting the establishment and growth of a

community for the 16,000 known estranged and care experienced students at university across the UK.

But there is potential and ambition to do so much more; the demand for our scholarship exceeds the support we are able to provide with four applicants for each place we have; as well as having 20+ universities on our waiting list.

Becoming a Trustee

As a Trustee you will be joining a successful, high performing charity with a stable and ambitious team. We have built sustainable governance and financial models and we're driven towards expanding our presence and reach.

We would benefit from people with expertise in youth engagement, data & insight or policy influencing. We welcome interest from people who have lived experience of care or estrangement and would actively encourage people who have never held Trustee roles to apply.

Our scholarship population is overly representative in all areas where the mainstream student population is under-representative; including disability, mental health, class, race, ethnicity, faith, gender and sexuality. Currently the rich and diverse nature of our student population is not fully reflected in our Board.

If you'd like an informal conversation about the role please reach out to Fiona Ellison, Director via fiona.ellison@unitefoundation.org.uk

How to apply

To apply please send a copy of your CV and cover letter, no more than 2 pages, outlining your interest in the role and your relevant skills and experience to fiona.ellison@unitefoundation.org.uk

Deadline for applications is 5pm on Monday 30th October.

Online interviews will be held on 14th November.