

Unite Foundation scholarship expansion scheme

Supporting more estranged and care experienced students with a free #HomeAtUniversity

FAQs

What is a scholarship?

The scholarship gives care leaver (care experienced in Scotland), and estranged students a free ensuite student bedroom in a purpose-built building for a maximum of 3 years of university life. It covers rent and utility bills for 365 days a year for up to 3 years of eligible study.

Who can apply for a scholarship?

Students will be able to apply for a scholarship if they meet the following criteria:

- + 25 years
- + A statutory care leaver (care experienced in Scotland) or estranged from family
- + Starting a first, full-time, undergraduate degree (not standalone or integrated foundation year)
- + Eligible for UK home fee status and associated tuition fee and maintenance student finance

How does the scholarship scheme work for students?

The Unite Foundation scholarship cycle runs from January to June each year. Students apply with a confirmed offer of study from a partner institutions. The application has four stages:

- + Students work through information and guidance to confirm their eligibility to apply
- + Online application where students upload evidence of eligibility alongside course and contact detail
- + University and Unite Foundation team check eligibility of application via secure online portal
- + Unite Foundation undertakes the selection process as outlined below.

The scholarship selection is done blindly to ensure fairness across applicants, and to take away the need for students to disclose information about their experiences that may be traumatic to revisit. We consider the following areas in how we allocate scholarships, reflecting:

- + A balance between estranged and care leaver students being supported
- + A range of academic ability and course choice
- + A spread of original and study location

What happens if a student drops out?

If a student drops out before the end of the scheme clearing phase (31 August), their place will be re-allocated from the reserve list of students who applied during the application cycle.

If a student drops out from their course outside of this period a replacement student would not be given a place and the funding would be returned to the donors. This is to reflect the particular nature of the evaluation of the pilot and ensuring comparable data.

What happens if a student takes a year out?

If a student needs to resit their year, or needs to take a year of absence for a year for personal reasons their scholarship is deferred for a year until they're ready to resume their studies.

How long will the scheme last?

The scheme will last for three academic years, with students starting in the 24/25 academic year. Funding will 'follow' awarded students until the cap of three years is complete. For example a student may take a year out and the scholarship is held for them pending their return to resume studies.

Why are we only accepting applications with university owned and managed halls of residence?

Ensuring students are housed in appropriate accommodation, directly connected to university partner support services, is central to the requirements of the scheme. Partner owned and managed accommodation also underpins the sustainability agenda for this work.

How is student data shared to administer the project and support wellbeing?

We will expect university partners to work holistically across departments including accommodation, finance, learning and student support in conjunction with the Unite Foundation. Sharing of data relating to the legitimate business of the scholarship scheme, for example enrolment status and course progression along with matters of incident, accident or student concern are captured within our [privacy policy](#). Prospective partners are responsible for ensuring their own data sharing protocols can meet this requirement. (Unite Foundation can enter into joint controller data sharing agreements as required.)