

Unite

Foundation

We're Unite Foundation, a charity that supports estranged and care experienced students with a rent-free #HomeAtUniversity through a nationwide scholarship.

If you run an existing scheme and would like to work with us to grow our evidence base, to make the case for a rent-free #HomeAtUniversity for all estranged and care experienced students, please get in touch with Helen Arber helen.arber@unitefoundation.org.uk.

If you would like to provide a rent-free #HomeAtUniversity for estranged and care experienced students at your university, we'd be more than happy to share how it can be done, drop us a line at info@unitefoundation.org.uk.

This is the difference we've made in 2023.

In 2023 we welcomed 106 more estranged and care experienced students to their new #HomeAtUniversity meaning there are now over 200 people currently studying at 39 universities across England & Scotland on the Unite Foundation scholarship.

We received £1,854k in funding from Unite Students, and £118k from Portal Trust, Astra Foundation and Dulverton Trust. £1,936k was spent on delivering a rent-free #HomeAtUniversity for the students we support.

Since 2012, we've awarded 719 scholarships and 345 graduates are now pursuing their dreams.

More universities have joined us on our journey this year. In addition to funding from our principal donor, Unite Students, our partnership with Portal Trust, Astra Foundation and Dulverton Trust enabled us to create 26 more scholarships at the University of Nottingham, Oxford Brookes University, University of London, University of York and University of East Anglia. This is in line with our commitment to increase scholarship provision and continue to build evidence that a free #HomeAtUniversity for estranged and care experienced students works.

We'll be welcoming more universities onto the scheme in 2024.

Personal touches are all part of the package. When new students join the Unite Foundation scholarship everyone is given a voucher to spend on what they need to make their house a home and can choose whatever they like - from the practical to the plush. This year, we partnered with UniKitOut who generously match funded our £100 gift, so every new student got £200 to spend.

Additionally, we gifted £50 to each of this year's graduates to mark their achievement and in December everyone on the scholarship received a mini hamper of winter treats.

All of Us is the community for estranged and care experienced students across the UK. The Unite Foundation supports the community with funding and dedicated team members who work hand in hand with students across the UK, to help everyone become better connected on and offline.

Over 20 students from across the community sit on the Sounding Board which has steered community activity throughout the year including: presence at National Student Pride, the creation of a [Guide for Loved Ones](#), a collaboration with AKT on [a guide on grief and estrangement for LGBTQ+ young people](#) and a collaboration with EaCES to create a [holiday guide for HE staff](#), which featured on HE Professional. Over 300 information packs about All of Us were sent out to universities and student unions, 11 events and meet ups organised by students took place across the UK, and there are now over 900 students signed up to All of Us online.

Cvs were made stronger with 28 students in paid roles across Unite Foundation teams and projects. Artemis, Dannii, Franchezka, Molly, Cassie, King, Bryony, Lisa, Amelia, Alexis, Lizzie, Shanti and Courtney took the lead on charity communications through the This is Us (@thisisusatuni) social media channels, run by students on the scholarship, demonstrating the importance of a free #HomeAtUniversity. Milana and Chanti have been working on wider brand and communications activity and Unite Foundation graduate Paige continues to present and produce the This is Us podcast.

Emily and Holly kicked off the All of Us (@all_of_us_uk) social media. 5 more students from across the community have been working hard to grow All of Us online, 9 students have worked with us on our #BeAGuarantor campaign - and there are now around 20 universities working on implementing their own guarantor scheme for estranged and care experienced students.

The next year is all about continuing to work towards our vision: that a rent-free #HomeAtUniversity for all estranged and care experienced students is provided as standard support across all UK universities.

We have evidence this works, and we will continue to build on this with our expanding network of university partners - alongside collating evidence from other HE providers and Local Authorities with provision in place.