

Care Leavers, Stand Alone and Young Adult Carers Bursary Policy

November 2023

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The University aims to provide appropriate support for students who are care experienced, estranged from their biological/adoptive parents, or who are a young adult carer for a friend or family member. This policy sets out the rights, entitlements, responsibilities and expectations of those students, and AUB staff involved in supporting them.
- 1.2 This policy has been agreed with the Access and Participation Manager, the Accommodation and Advice Manager and representatives of the AUB student body.

2 Stand Alone Bursary for Estranged Students

- 2.1 The Stand Alone Bursary supports students who are estranged from both of their biological or adoptive parents, and the situation is likely to remain permanent. AUB classes estrangement as a situation in which an individual has very little or no communicative relationship with either of their living biological or adoptive parents, and often their wider family networks as well.¹ For students who become estranged during their time at AUB, this process can be supported by the Student Services team and the Progression Officer.
- 2.2 The bursary is available to undergraduate students domiciled in England from ages 18 to 25 who are studying for their first degree (or equivalent if obtained outside the UK). This bursary is in the form of a grant, is not means-tested and does not affect a student's entitlement to any other financial support.
- 2.3 The bursary is worth £2,000 a year and is paid in three instalments after a meeting with the Progression Officer each term. This meeting is a requirement and is not optional. It must take place in-person unless a student is taking part in an international study exchange, in which case, the Progression Officer will contact the student via email or video call for evidence of continued course engagement and will also contact the student's tutor to verify this.
- 2.4 As part of the application process, evidence of an applicant's status as an estranged student is required. This may be from their GP, a teacher from school or college, a local authority representative, or another professional person who is unrelated to the student.
- 2.5 If a student becomes estranged whilst at AUB, evidence can be accepted from a relevant member of the Student Experience Management team. This will be if the student has received support from the Student Services team during the process of ceasing contact with their biological or adoptive parents.
- 2.6 Evidence of an estrangement that has occurred whilst a student is at AUB should be submitted by 01 April to receive the bursary payment for that academic year, and must show that the situation has been ongoing while the student has been at AUB.

¹ officeforstudents.org.uk (accessed 19.07.23)

- 2.7 AUB is able to provide estranged students with accommodation for 365 days a year for each year of study. Students will need to be in receipt of the Stand Alone Bursary to qualify for this. No rent is charged during the summer period, although students remain liable for any costs resulting from damage. Students may need to move rooms, and possibly halls, during the summer period and there is no guarantee that students can remain in the same room and/or halls of residence for all years of study.
- 2.8 If a student requires AUB accommodation over the summer period to cover a tenancy gap, they must request this by 01 May to be guaranteed accommodation.

3 Care Leavers Bursary for Care Experienced Students

- 3.1 AUB defines a care leaver as a young person who is aged from 16 to 25 and has been 'looked after' for at least 13 weeks by a local authority at some point since they were 14 years old.²
- 3.2 The Care Leavers Bursary supports students who have been in care prior to coming to AUB. Those who are eligible may have spent time in one of the following types of care:
- Living with foster carers in local authority care
 - In residential care
 - Looked after at home under a supervision order
 - Looked after under a Special Guardianship Order
 - In kinship care with relatives or a close family friend, either officially or informally without local authority support³
- 3.3 The bursary is available to undergraduate students domiciled in England from ages 18 to 25 who are studying for their first degree, (or equivalent if obtained outside the UK). They should have been 'looked after' for at least 13 weeks by a local authority at some point since they were 14 years old. The bursary is in the form of a grant, is not means-tested and does not affect a student's entitlement to any other financial support.
- 3.4 The bursary is worth £2,000 a year and is paid in three instalments after a meeting with the Progression Officer each term. This meeting is a requirement and is not optional. It must take place in-person unless a student is taking part in an international study exchange, in which case, the Progression Officer will contact the student via email or video call for evidence of continued course engagement and will also contact the student's tutor to verify this.
- 3.5 As part of the application process, evidence of an applicant having been in care is required. This may be from their GP, a teacher from school or college, a local authority representative, or another professional person who is unrelated to the student.
- 3.6 If a student is submitting evidence of care experience during their time at AUB, appropriate evidence should be submitted by 01 April to receive the bursary payment for that academic year.

² officeforstudents.org.uk (accessed 19.07.23)

³ ucas.com (accessed 18.07.23)

- 3.7 AUB is able to provide care experienced students with accommodation for 365 days a year for each year of study. Students will need to be in receipt of the Stand Alone Bursary to qualify for this. No rent is charged during the summer period, although students remain liable for any costs resulting from damage. Students may need to move rooms, and possibly halls, during the summer period and there is no guarantee that students can remain in the same room and/or halls of residence for all years of study.
- 3.8 If a student requires AUB accommodation over the summer period to cover a tenancy gap, they must request this by 01 May to be guaranteed accommodation.

4 Young Adult Carers Bursary

- 4.1 A young adult carer is someone aged 25 and under who provides ongoing and long-term care for a friend or family member who, due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction, can't cope without their support. They may regularly carry out any of the following tasks for someone else within their immediate social network⁴:
- Practical tasks like cooking, housework and shopping
 - Physical care such as helping someone out of bed
 - Providing intensive and ongoing emotional support
 - Personal care such as helping someone dress
 - Managing the family budget
 - Helping to give medicine and collecting prescriptions
 - Helping someone communicate
 - Looking after siblings⁵
- 4.2 The bursary is available to undergraduate students domiciled in England from ages 18 to 25 who are studying for their first degree (or equivalent if obtained outside the UK). This bursary is in the form of a grant, is not means-tested and does not affect a student's entitlement to any other financial support.
- 4.3 The bursary is worth £2,000 a year and is paid in three instalments after a meeting with the Progression Officer each term. This meeting is a requirement and is not optional. It must take place in-person unless a student is taking part in an international study exchange, in which case, the Progression Officer will contact the student via email or video call for evidence of continued course engagement and will also contact the student's tutor to verify this.
- 4.4 As part of the application process, evidence of an applicant's young adult carer status is required. This may be from their GP, a teacher from school or college, a local authority representative, or another professional person who is unrelated to the student.
- 4.5 If a student is submitting evidence of being a young adult carer during their time at AUB, appropriate evidence should be submitted by 01 April to receive the bursary payment for that academic year. Evidence should show that the situation has been ongoing while the student has been at AUB.

⁴ [Carers Trust](#) (accessed 18.07.23)

⁵ [Carers Trust](#) (accessed 18.07.23)

Glossary

Estrangement – The situation in which an individual has no communicative relationship with either of their living biological or adoptive parents, and often their wider family networks as well. Many of these students will not have had any experience of the care system and will not be entitled to support from their local authority.⁶

This can be due to a lifestyle choice, their sexuality, a gender choice, disagreements over money, religious differences, marrying someone from a different background, or not behaving to the satisfaction of their core family members. Estrangement can also result from emotional, physical, or sexual abuse during childhood or beyond.⁷

In certain circumstances, students may have very limited contact for specific reasons, for example, they're still in touch with siblings.⁸

Care Leaver - A young person aged from 16 to 25 who has been 'looked after' for at least 13 weeks by a local authority at some point since they were 14 years old and was in care on or after their 16th birthday.⁹

Care Experienced - A group or person who has spent time in local authority care. This term is preferred by many care experienced people, and also includes those who do not fall into the narrower category of 'care leaver'.¹⁰

Young Adult Carer – A young person aged 16–25 who cares, unpaid, for a family member or friend with an illness or disability, mental health condition or an addiction.¹¹

Equalities statement

All members of the University's community including staff, students, visitors and contractors have a responsibility to treat others fairly and respectfully regardless of the characteristics which may define their identity. These include the legally protected characteristics which are: Age, Disability, Gender reassignment, Marriage and Civil partnership, Pregnancy and maternity, Race, Religion or belief (including lack of belief), Sex and Sexual orientation. The University has committed to provide a working and learning environment founded on dignity, respect and equity where discrimination of any kind is treated with the utmost seriousness.

This policy has been subject to an equality impact assessment to ensure consideration with regard to the provisions of the Equality Act 2010.

⁶ [officeforstudents.org.uk](https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk) (accessed 19.07.23)

⁷ [standalone.org.uk](https://www.standalone.org.uk) (accessed 18.07.23)

⁸ [slc.co.uk](https://www.slc.co.uk) (accessed 19.07.23)

⁹ [officeforstudents.org.uk](https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk) (accessed 19.07.23)

¹⁰ [officeforstudents.org.uk](https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk) (accessed 19.07.23)

¹¹ [Carers Trust](https://www.carers-trust.org.uk) (accessed 18.07.23)