

Survey of Care Experienced Students at Scottish Universities

Dear student

Please help to make university life better for care-experienced students

If you are a care-experienced student currently enrolled at a university in Scotland, please tell us about your experiences of getting to university and being at university.

Whether your experience was good or not so good, you can help us to make improvements to the information and support for all care-experienced students.

A care-experienced student is someone who is or was at any time in the past 'looked after' or in the care of a local authority (e.g. in foster care, kinship care, or residential care, or adopted, or received 'home supervision' from social work).

The survey is completely anonymous. You can read more about the survey in the Participant Information Sheet.

After submitting your response, you can choose to enter a prize draw to win £100.

The survey should only take 15 minutes to complete. It is in three parts: first some questions about the process of coming to University, then some questions about being at University, and finally some questions about you.

Linda O'Neill & Graham Connelly, [CELCIS](#).

>

I have read the Participant Information sheet and I understand that by proceeding to the survey, I have given my consent to take part. [tick box]

I understand the definition of 'care experienced student' and this applies to me. [tick box]

I know that I can decide not to answer any question. [tick box]

[Proceed to the survey]

>

Coming to University

Q1

Before university, what were you doing?

[Tick only one answer]

At school

At college

Working

Unemployed – seeking work

Unemployed – not seeking work

Training Programme

Activity Agreement

Volunteering

Other [Write in]

>

[If answer 'at college', as supplementary question]

Did you progress from college to university via a special arrangement between a college and a university (e.g. an 'articulation agreement', associate student programme or university access course)?

Yes

No

>

Q2

Is this your first time at university?

Yes

No, I completed another university course in the past

No, I started a university course in the past but did not complete it

>

Q3

Is your home location:

Scotland

England, or Wales, or Northern Ireland

Other [Write in]

>

Q4

Did you receive help about going to university/choosing your course/

No, I did it on my own

Yes, from [tick all that apply]

A teacher

Skills Development Scotland (Careers) Adviser

College based adviser or guidance lecturer

Relative

Friend

Other [Write in]

>

Q5

Was your selection of university influenced by the support the university offered as a 'corporate parent' (e.g. on its website or in its Corporate Parenting Plan

No

Yes

If Yes, could you say in what way(s) [write in]

>

Q6

Did you use the Propel website (www.propel.org.uk) to help plan your move to university?

>

Q7

Did you tell the university you were care experienced?

[Tick only one answer]

No, I wanted to keep this private

Yes, I declared my care experience as part of the UCAS application process

Yes, I declared my care experience as part of a direct application to the university

Yes, I declared my care experience once my place was confirmed

Yes, I declared my care experience during my course

[Supplementary questions for Yes responses]

Did someone from the university get in touch with you before you started your course?

Yes

No

Was declaring your care background a positive experience?

Yes

No

Please tell us about your experience. [Open ended text box]

>

Q8

Did you have any difficulties with your transition to university related to your care experience? If so, please tell us a little about them and whether they were resolved.

[Open ended text box]

>

Being at University

Q9

Where are you currently living while attending university?

At home with family

In kinship care/with extended family

In foster care

In residential care

In supported accommodation arranged by a local authority

In a student residence

In my own house or flat

Other [Write in]

>

Q10

Have you had to move accommodation unexpectedly during your course?

Yes

No

>

Q11

Have you been offered university accommodation during university holidays?

Yes

No

Whether you answered Yes or No, tell us a little about your experience in relation to university accommodation?

[Open-ended text box]

>

Q12

This part of the survey uses a table of questions. For each row, please tick only one box.

I am doing well at university so far

I feel confident about my academic abilities

When I need help with university work there is someone I can go to

I feel part of the university community

I am coping well with my finances

I have no worries about accommodation

I have a good support network

[5-point Likert scale: Strongly agree/Agree/Neither agree nor disagree/Disagree/Strongly disagree]

>

Q13

Have you accessed any of the following university services? Tick all that apply.

A mentor

Counselling/Wellbeing Service

Disability/Enabling/Additional Support Needs Service

Equality and Diversity Service

Student Union/Students' Association

Financial advice service

Other [write in]

>

Q14

Have you received any of the following financial supports? [Tick all that apply]

SAAS Care Experienced Student's Bursary (£8,100 per year)

Dependant's Grant

Lone Parent's Grant

Disabled Student's Allowance

Care Experienced Accommodation Grant

Expenses for travel to and from university

Student Loan

Additional funding provided by the university (e.g. scholarship)

Funding from a local authority other than for accommodation

Other [Write in]

[If ticked any box lead to a supplementary question – otherwise move on to next question]

How was your experience of applying for funds? [Open-ended text box]

>

Q15

Do you do paid work alongside your studies?

No

Yes, I work occasionally

Yes, I work regularly - typically less than 10 hours a week

Yes, I work regularly - typically between 10 and 20 hours per week

Yes, I work regularly - typically more than 20 hours per week

>

Q16

Have you ever thought about leaving university?

Yes

No

Please tell us anything you want about your experience of university, whether good or bad and any difficulties you have faced.

[Open-ended box]

>

Q17

What are your plans at the end of this university year/session?

Don't know yet

Continue to the next year/stage of my course

Post-graduate study

Employment

Other [write in]

About You

Q18

What is your age?

Under 18

18-19

20-25

26-30

31+

>

Q19

What gender are you?

Female

Male

Non-binary

Not listed [box for respondent to write in]

Prefer not to say

>

Q20

What is your ethnic group?

White

Asian

African, Caribbean or Black

Other [Please write in]

>

Q21

Do you consider yourself to have a disability, including mental health issues, or additional support needs?

Yes

Rather not say

No

What is the nature of your disability or disabilities or additional support needs? [Text box]

>

Q22

Are you currently a 'looked after' young person?

Yes

No

>

Q23

Are you in a 'continuing care' placement?

Yes

No

>

Q24

Are you currently receiving 'leaving care' services?

Yes

Entitled to leaving care services but I don't receive any

No

>

Q25

Which university are you studying at?

University of Aberdeen

Abertay University

University of Dundee

Edinburgh Napier University

University of Edinburgh

Glasgow Caledonian University

Glasgow School of Art

University of Glasgow

Heriot-Watt University

University of the Highlands and Islands

The Open University in Scotland

Queen Margaret University

Robert Gordon University

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)

University of St Andrews

University of Stirling

University of Strathclyde

University of the West of Scotland

Other [Write in]

>

Q26

What are you studying / name or programme? [Write in]

>

Q27

When did you first enrol in this programme?

Month [write in] Year [write in]

>

Q28

What stage of your course are you in?

Access or pre-access

First year undergraduate

Second year undergraduate

Third year undergraduate

Fourth year undergraduate

Fifth year undergraduate

Post-graduate or graduate diploma

Postgraduate Master's

Doctorate

Other [Write in]

>

Q29

What is your mode of attendance?

Full-time (typically more than 15 hours per week)

Part-time

>

Q30

These are all our questions but if you would like to add some comments, about being care experienced at university, or about the survey, please feel free to write these in the box below which will expand as you write. [Open ended text box]

>

[End of Survey]

[Click to submit responses]

>

[Either]

I want to enter the prize draw for a £100 voucher. *

Please provide an email address or mobile number we can use to contact you if you win. Please be assured that we will not store your contact details for any purpose other than the draw and your survey responses will remain anonymous.

[Insert details]

>

Thank you very much for your time in completing this questionnaire. We appreciate your help.

Exit survey

[Or]

I don't want to enter the prize draw.

Thank you very much for your time in completing this questionnaire. We appreciate your help.

Exit survey