

Funding for students from
Care, Foyer Federation,
and
Supported
Accommodation

Student Funding Team
(RM050 - Student Hub)
Tel: 023 8201 5200
Email: student.funding@solent.ac.uk

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At Solent University we provide additional support to care leavers or students who have lived in Foyer Federation/supported accommodation. Eligible students must be under 25 on the 1st September of the first day of the course and:

- Are or have been looked after by any Local Authority for a period of thirteen weeks or more *after* the age of fourteen and before your 18th birthday.
- are currently or have been a Foyer Federation resident
- are currently or have been living in supported accommodation

Financial support from the government

Full-time home (UK) undergraduate students are entitled to financial support from the UK Government as long as they haven't previously completed a degree course. You can apply for a tuition fee loan to cover your fees and a maintenance loan to cover living costs.

For 2019/20 the maximum maintenance loan is £8,944. However, if you qualify for benefits whilst being a full time student, the loan would increase to £10,194.

As a care leaver, you should be assessed as an independent student. You will need to state that you are a care leaver on your Student Finance application form and provide the relevant evidence of your care status from Social Services. By providing this evidence, you will be assessed for the full maintenance Loan. As an independent student, only the income of any partner you live with will be considered when assessing how much extra loan you are entitled to.

If you are estranged from your parents and have been living in Foyer/supported accommodation you will need to provide evidence of the estrangement to Student Finance England (SFE) i.e. a supporting letter from your key worker.

To find out more about student funding and how to apply please refer to the Student Funding web pages:

www.solent.ac.uk/studying/fees/financial-support/applying-for-student-funding.aspx

Financial support from your local authority

All local authorities are expected to provide financial support to care leavers who progress to higher education. Contact your Local Authority to find out what support is available.

Financial support available from the university

The University offers the following additional financial support:

Care Leavers Bursary

This is a non-income assessed annual bursary of £1,500 for home (UK) undergraduate students studying full-time who:

- Are under 25 on the first day of the course, **and**
- Are looked after **or** have been looked after by any Local Authority for a period of thirteen weeks or more after the age of fourteen and before your 18th birthday.

Foyer Federation / Supported Accommodation Bursary

This is a non-income assessed annual bursary of £1,500 for home (UK) undergraduate students studying full time who:

- Are under 25 on the first day of the course, **and**
- are currently living or have previously lived in supported accommodation or a Foyer Federation.
- In most cases students must have spent a significant period of time living in this type of accommodation for reasons related to their physical or mental wellbeing.

How to apply for either of these bursaries

Please contact the Student Funding Team. We will provide you with an application form and once completed (and you have provided the necessary evidence), you will be assessed for the bursary. If successful, you will receive the bursary in instalments over the academic year, providing you remain on and demonstrate an acceptable level of engagement with your course.

Additional university support

In addition to the funding support outlined in this leaflet, the university also offers the following support:

- Priority given to first year care leavers/Foyer Federation/supported accommodation residents when allocating rooms in halls of residence.
- Possible continued residence in halls of residence for subsequent years (by arrangement)
- An extended halls contract to provide accommodation all year round.

For more information, please contact the Accommodation office
Tel: 023 82015040 or visit: <https://bit.ly/1EUyffa>

The student funding team offers:

- A financial health check to ensure you are receiving all the funding to which you are entitled
- A check on your eligibility for further financial assistance from Solent's Support Grant
- Your own dedicated Personal Support Key Adviser

To contact the student funding team:

- Tel: 023 82015200
- Student Hub, RM050
- email: student.funding@solent.ac.uk or
- visit: <https://bit.ly/2gxGFoJ>

Further information:

For care leavers

More information is available from "Become" who produce the "Helping you reach higher" factsheet at: <https://bit.ly/2CLlxB>
<https://www.becomecharity.org.uk/>

For students who are estranged

Further support and information is available from “The Stand Alone Trust”: www.standalone.org.uk/