



Sheffield  
Hallam  
University

# Supporting care leavers at Sheffield Hallam University

*Guidance for local  
authorities*

# Helping care leavers apply to University

This document is for social workers and personal advisers who support care leavers applying to university.

Some of the information is specific to Sheffield Hallam and some is more general.

See the back of this booklet for more comprehensive sources of guidance about support for care leavers in higher education.

## Sheffield Hallam's SHU Progress Scheme

Care leavers are eligible for our SHU Progress Scheme which offers additional support to students who face barriers to going to university, both during the application process and beyond. View the eligibility criteria and details at [www.shu.ac.uk/shuprogress](http://www.shu.ac.uk/shuprogress)

## Applying for courses

Students can start applying for courses around a year before they begin. For guidance and application deadlines go to [ucas.com](http://ucas.com)

If you have a query about entry requirements, phone our Admissions team on 0114 225 5533 or email [admissions@shu.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@shu.ac.uk)

# Support for care leavers at Sheffield Hallam

## Ongoing support

In addition to a bursary, we offer care leavers support from a named adviser throughout their time here. This is someone who offers information and advice and can be contacted with any questions.

## Our advisers can also help care leavers access

- one-to-one support from a wellbeing adviser
- one-to-one careers and employability advice
- our career mentoring scheme
- support from tutors or other course team staff
- budgeting and financial advice
- help with settling in
- social activities in the holidays
- all year round accommodation
- support for a disability, mental health condition or specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia (please advise the young person to contact [disability-support@shu.ac.uk](mailto:disability-support@shu.ac.uk) for advice about disability support. Support in Higher Education may be accessed in a different way to school or college)

Although we offer advice, we are not trained counsellors. However we can connect students with specialist wellbeing advisers and act as a consistent reference point.

# Funding

The financial implications of coming to university can sometimes stand in the way of people applying. We advise you to pass on as much information as possible so potential students can make a more informed choice.

## **Statutory funding: Tuition Fee and Maintenance Loans**

UK students can apply for statutory student funding. The authority they apply to depends on their course and whether they are from England and Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales or the Republic of Ireland.

Students entering higher education from care should apply for statutory funding as an independent student as they are not dependent upon support from their family's household income. For details go to [standalone.org.uk/guides/student-guide](http://standalone.org.uk/guides/student-guide)

For more information, contact our Student Funding and Access Support team on 0114 225 2184 or [transitions@shu.ac.uk](mailto:transitions@shu.ac.uk)

## **Sheffield Hallam Bursaries**

We offer £1,500 per taught year to undergraduate students who fulfil our criteria. For details visit [www.shu.ac.uk/current-students/student-support/care-leavers](http://www.shu.ac.uk/current-students/student-support/care-leavers)

# Data sharing

## with looked after and care leaver support teams

Our contract is with the student and we deal with them directly, regardless of who pays their fees or their personal circumstances. As such, we can only discuss individual cases if we have consent.

The University has a duty under the Data Protection Act not to disclose personal data. We also have a duty to inform students how their data will be processed as detailed in the Student Personal Data Code which students can access via shuspace (the University's online learning environment).

### **Our data consent form**

A general consent agreement only allows us to confirm whether a student is enrolled on their course.

However students can complete our care leaver data consent form enabling us to share additional information with a named individual from their local authority. The student can be specific about the level and type of data they would like to share.

An advantage of this confidentiality is that students are encouraged to take responsibility for accessing support and keeping people informed. This facilitates greater independence and autonomy.

If you or the person you're supporting have any specific questions about data protection or consent to share, please phone us on 0114 225 2184 or email [transitions@shu.ac.uk](mailto:transitions@shu.ac.uk)

# Contacts and useful resources

## StandAlone

Includes guides such as *New Starts: The challenges of Higher Education without the support of a family network* and other insights.

[www.standalone.org.uk/students](http://www.standalone.org.uk/students)

## Propel

A searchable directory detailing support offered to care leavers by each university.

[propel.org.uk](http://propel.org.uk)

## National Network for the Education of Care Leavers

Higher education activities and resources for care leavers, children in care and those who support them,

[nnecl.org.uk](http://nnecl.org.uk)

UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) guide for care leavers

[www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/individual-needs/care-leavers](http://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/individual-needs/care-leavers)

## Contact us

### Application support

Aidan Begley, senior outreach and widening participation officer  
0114 225 4777, [care@shu.ac.uk](mailto:care@shu.ac.uk)

### On-course support

Emily Marsh & Robin Kerr, senior transitions officers and named contact for care leavers  
0114 225 2184, [transitions@shu.ac.uk](mailto:transitions@shu.ac.uk)