

The UCAS tick box: What's it all about?

Nicola Turner – Senior Fair Access Adviser, UCAS

UCAS

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The Fostering Network



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Getting started with your decisions and application

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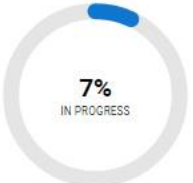
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0% Your to do list
Open to do list >

Your preferences
Update for a better experience >

1 Your notifications
Open notifications >

YOUR 2023 APPLICATIONS



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IN PROGRESS


CONTINUE APPLICATION

Add application

FAVOURITES

TOP 5 COURSES UNI & COLLEGES LOCATIONS SUBJECTS PAGES

- Add favourite course to top 5
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University of Gloucestershire
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SEARCH

A*	A	B	SEARCH
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-	VIEW SAVED		>

YOUR EVENTS

SEARCH EVENTS

AT YOUR FAVOURITE UNIS

Middlesex University - Undergraduate Open Day 8th October
8 Oct 2023, 09:30 | [VIEW EVENT](#)

EXPLORE YOUR FUTURE

SEARCH FOR COURSES

COURSES FOR YOU RELATED SUBJECTS UNI & COLLEGES APPRENTICESHIPS BITE SIZE

- English
View 164 courses at your favourite uni & colleges
View 759 courses at your favourite locations
- Film, cinematic, and photography
View 34 courses at your favourite uni & colleges
View 631 courses at your favourite locations
- Journalism
View 47 courses at your favourite uni & colleges
View 863 courses at your favourite locations

Suggestions are based on your favourites

GO AND EXPLORE >

UCAS

Sign up to the UCAS hub for your own personalised dashboard:

- Explore your options – careers options, different pathways
- Your to do list
- Dates and deadlines
- Personal statement builder
- Find and shortlist courses and unis
- Events and open days
- Check tariff points
- Quizzes to help decisions
- Hub live events and recordings
- Create your application and profile
- Apply!

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UCAS UNDERGRADUATE: CARE EXPERIENCED STUDENTS

Explore this section ▾

If you are in care, or have experience of being in care in the past, there's lots of support available in higher education to help you with finance, accommodation, and settling in.

What's on this page?

- What do we mean by care experience?
- What support can care experienced students get in higher education?
- Do your research – we're here to help
- The UCAS application – ticking the box
- Care experienced students in Scotland
- If you are estranged from your parents
- Refugees and asylum-seeking students
- More information

What do we mean by care experience?

Being care experienced means you will have spent time living with foster carers under local authority care, in residential care (e.g. a children's home), looked after at home under a supervision order or in kinship care with relatives or friends, either officially (e.g. a special guardianship order) or informally without local authority support.

Sometimes you will see the term 'care leaver' used. Although this has a slightly different meaning, it is occasionally used interchangeably with care experience.

What support can care experienced students get in higher education?

There is a wide variety of support available for care experienced students in higher education – some of which is managed by your local authority, and some by the university or college.

It's important to remember this support is there to help you overcome any challenges you may face, to ensure you are able to settle in well to university life, and to give you an equitable chance to do well in your studies. All students are in full control of the support they are offered and if you don't want to use it, you don't have to – it's entirely your call.

You can find more information on the [Propel website](#) but here is an overview of the important things to look out for – remember to do your research before you apply (see our tips below) so you

UCAS TOP TIP

Do your research!

Not all universities offer the same type and level of support – check which works best for you.

- UCAS website: www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/individual-needs/ucas-undergraduate-care-experienced-students
(or Google “UCAS care experience”)
- Propel website: www.propel.org.uk
- Foster Talk guide: www.fostertalk.org/care-leavers

CONTACT THE UNIVERSITY!

If you are supporting someone with their application

UCAS

www.ucas.com/advisers/toolkits/adviser-toolkit-supporting-students-individual-needs

Google “UCAS advisers toolkits” and choose this:

Advisers Toolkits

ADVISER TOOLKIT: SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

Explore this section ▾

For some students, their individual circumstances can have a significant impact on their decision to go to university or college – and on their experience when they are there.

To make sure all your students feel informed and prepared at each stage of their application journey, we've worked with expert organisations to bring together practical tips and useful resources for those who are advising students about their next step.

In this guide, you will find practical information on how to support the following groups:

- 1 Disabled students (including long-term illnesses and learning differences)
- 2 Students with mental health conditions
- 3 Care-experienced students
- 4 Students estranged from their parents
- 5 Refugees, asylum seekers, and those with limited leave to remain in the UK
- 6 Students with caring responsibilities
- 7 Students with parenting responsibilities
- 8 Children from UK Armed Forces families (Service children)
- 9 UK Armed Forces veterans and Service leavers
- 10 Students eligible for free school meals (FSM) – adviser FAQs

As part of our ongoing commitment to widening access and participation for all students, regardless of their background or circumstances, we are introducing new questions into the application for the 2023 cycle, from 17 May 2022 onwards, to help these students flag their circumstances to their university or college.

For more information, visit our FAQs page for advisers and the 2023 UCAS Adviser Toolkit.

Students with individual support needs toolkit

For some students, their individual circumstances can have a significant impact on their decision to go to university or college – and on their ability to succeed when they are there. To make sure they're aware of the range of support available, we've pulled together some tips and key resources for you to share with them throughout the different stages of the application process.

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ANALYTICS FOR SPEE

How McLaren goes from insight to action, fast

See how alter

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How do I 'tick the box'?

Profile

Personal details

Name, age, title and gender

[Start this section](#)

Contact & residency details



Address, email, telephone and where you live

✓ Section complete

Nationality details

Birthplace and nationalities

[Start this section](#)

Supporting information

So that providers know how to support you during your studies

[Start this section](#)

English language skills

Is English your first language?

[Start this section](#)

Finance & funding

Tell us how you'll fund your study

[Start this section](#)

Diversity & inclusion

Only shared with a provider once you have a place or your application is archived

[Start this section](#)

More about you

Tell us about any circumstances that you might need support for during your studies.

[Start this section](#)

[Return to application overview](#)

- Personal details
- ✔ Contact and resident details
- Nationality details
- Supporting information
- English language skills
- Finance and funding
- Diversity and inclusion**
- More about you
- Education
- Employment
- Extra activities
- Personal statement
- Reference
- Nationality details
- Supporting information
- English language skills
- Finance and funding
- Diversity and inclusion**
- More about you
- Education
- Employment
- Extra activities
- Personal statement
- Reference

Care support information

Have you been in care?

Select yes if you've ever lived in public care or as a looked-after child, including:

- with foster carers under local authority care
- in a residential children's home
- being 'looked after at home'
- living with friends or relatives

Note: This does not refer to a private healthcare setting, or if you are currently in care, this may differ between high schools. For more information about the student support team, please contact the student support team.

Yes No

Yes No

Duration in care *

- Less than 1 week
- 1 week - 3 months
- 3 months - 1 year
- 1 year - 3 years
- 3 years or more

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Search our frequently asked questions.

What are you looking for?

Where can I get more advice if I've not decided whether to give information about my care experience? [show answer](#)

Before you decide, read this article on the UCAS blog.

Where can I get more information about going to university or college from care? [show answer](#)

- Find out more about applying to higher education if you are care experienced.

I have never been in care but my relationship with my parents has broken down and I have left home [show answer](#)

If your relationship with your parents has broken down but you have not been in local authority care, you may be considered 'estranged' from your family.

Does living at boarding school count as being in care? [show answer](#)

No. A child is considered to be in care if they are taken into the care of the local authority. Although boarders are under the care of the school during term-time, they remain under the primary care of their parents or guardians.

How is information about care experience used? [show answer](#)

Telling the university or college that you are care experienced can help admissions staff consider your achievements in context. They may also get in touch with you to share more details about the support they offer.

What are minimum entry requirements in Scotland and how might they affect me? [show answer](#)

If you're still not sure:

- Contact student support services
- Tick the box



*(You don't need to decide
– the uni can help you)*

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Don't forget to share other personal circumstances that universities can help with

For example:

- Mental health (no diagnosis needed)
- A disability, learning difference or long-term health condition
- If you have caring or parenting responsibilities
- If you are a refugee or asylum seeker



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I've ticked the box
– now what?

After you hit 'submit' ...

1. *(Your application is sent to your school or college for a reference).*
2. UCAS sends your application to your universities. Admissions staff decide to make you an offer based on your achievements and potential –grades, experience and personal statement.
3. If an offer is accepted, you may be contacted with more information about the support available.
4. You might be invited to attend events, be put in touch with a central contact (maybe chat to them), ensure you have what you need to start your studies.



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Some students are worried about ...

... not getting an offer because they have shared care experience

- FALSE – this information is only used to connect you to support
- Contextual offers – and the ‘guaranteed offer’ in Scotland

... being treated differently

- You are in control
- Your information is confidential
- Fairness and equity

... having to talk about their care experience if they don't want to

- Only if you want to
- Support staff are sensitive to your circumstances

... not fitting in

- HE is very diverse
- This year almost 9,000 applicants shared a care background – you're not alone
- Networks and support groups, mentors
- Study support



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Need help? Get in touch



facebook.com/ucasonline



[@ucas_online](https://twitter.com/ucas_online)



[ucas_online](https://www.instagram.com/ucas_online)



Call UCAS on
0371 468 0 468
(Mon-Fri: 08.30 to 18.00)