



Unite Foundation
Scholarship Scheme
2017/18
Guidance and Application Form

About the Unite Foundation

The Unite Foundation is a charitable trust, registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales and the Scottish Charity Regulator, which focusses on enabling young people under the age of 25 to make the most of educational opportunity.

Emphasis is placed on supporting young people with academic ability and ambition for whom access to a secure home is particularly meaningful; students who have previously been in care or are estranged from their parents.

The Unite Foundation Scholarship Scheme provides free accommodation for three years of undergraduate study. At November 2016, over 160 students had benefited from the scholarship scheme, with 22 having graduated. In 2017 another 70 scholarship places will be available through our national network of partnership universities.

The Foundation itself was established in 2012 by Unite Students, a developer and manager of student accommodation. Unite Students remains the majority donor and makes an annual donation to the Unite Foundation having pledged a total of £8.5 million over the five-year period to 2020.

About Unite Universities

Universities in the Unite Foundation network are committed to the success of care leavers and estranged young people.

Aston University
Bath Spa University
Bournemouth University
Brunel University London
De Montfort University
Edinburgh Napier University
Glasgow Caledonian University
Huddersfield University
King's College London
Leeds Beckett University
Liverpool John Moores University
London Metropolitan University
Manchester Metropolitan University
Plymouth University

Queen Mary University of London
Robert Gordon University
Sheffield Hallam University
University of Bristol
University College London (UCL)
University of Edinburgh
University of Exeter
University of Portsmouth
University of Reading
University of Salford
University of Sheffield
University of Strathclyde
University of the West of England (UWE)
University of Westminster

1. Eligibility

Please read the descriptions below carefully to see if you are able to meet the principle scheme criteria of care leaver OR estranged. If you can, then check and tick the rest of the eligibility items and continue with your application.

If you are unsure of your eligibility or the back-up documentation needed, please get in touch with your intended university. They will be able to offer help with this scheme application or give you advice on other avenues of support to pursue.

Care leaver

Care leaver is a formal status that can begin at age 16 and lasts until aged 21, or aged 25 if in Higher Education. There are several different categories of care leaver but all legal definitions are eligible for the Unite Foundation Scholarship Scheme.

Ask your local authority personal/advisor/social worker for a standard letter on headed paper confirming which category of care leaver you fall into, and enclose it with the scholarship application to our partner university.

Estranged from family

If you are estranged from both of your biological, adoptive parents, or only living parent, you will be eligible to apply for the Unite Foundation Scholarship Scheme as an estranged student. Student Finance considers you an independent student on the basis of being estranged from your parents if you have not had verbal or written contact with both of your biological, adoptive, or only living parent for a significant period of time and your estrangement is irreconcilable.

Enclose with your scholarship application to your university, a copy of your student finance arrangement, along with the supporting documents student finance has already accepted from you as evidence of your estrangement.

Securing independent student status on the basis of estrangement with Student Finance can sometimes be time consuming and difficult. If you are struggling with this process do contact your intended university for help or get in touch with StandAlone which has a dedicated student section on their website. standalone.org.uk/students/

Checklist

- Care leaver **OR** Estranged from both parents
- A UK home fee status student
- Aged 25 or under at point of enrolment
- Undertaking first and only course of undergraduate study ie you have not been to this or another university previously

2. Benefits of the Unite Foundation Scholarship Scheme

Accommodation

1. If awarded a scholarship, and on becoming a Unite Foundation Scholar, you will be entitled to three separate years of free accommodation in a designated Unite Students property.
2. The accommodation is a single ensuite bedroom in a purpose built student flat with a communal fitted kitchen; the flat will be shared with a mixture of other students most likely at the same university.
3. Unite Students flats for Scholars include all household bills, have wi-fi throughout and are served by maintenance and on-site support teams as well as an on-line emergency call centre. Many buildings have other facilities like a laundry, fortnightly cleaning and bike storage. Flats are furnished and the buildings have areas suitable for both study and leisure.
4. For each year that you take up the free accommodation offer, your room will be available for the full calendar year; 365 or 366 days on leap years. Occasionally you might need to move flats temporarily to allow for maintenance and redecorating etc.
5. You will not require a rent guarantor, a deposit or any rent payments.
6. Once you become a Scholar you can choose annually if you would like to take up the free accommodation offer. Your application for years 2 and 3 of free accommodation are pre-approved. Years of study that are **excluded** from support are:
 - foundation year
 - years involving study credits toward a Masters whether that be post graduate or integrated with a Bachelors
 - resit years
 - repeat years arising as a result of changing courses
 - years in which you are aged 26 or older at point of enrolment
7. If you get a job in a different city during the holidays you can apply for free housing in a Unite Students property – subject to availability – in your employer location.

Miscellaneous support

Where appropriate the Foundation will make available opportunities or benefits provided by our donors and supporters. This may include paid internships, employability coaching, career mentors or other items and activities geared toward making the most of your university experience.

3. Responsibilities of Foundation Scholars

Administration

- 1 Each year that you take the benefit of free accommodation you will need to sign the normal rental agreement for your room and abide by the standard terms and conditions of the tenancy. Breaking the tenancy agreement will most likely result in loss of your scholarship.
- 2 You must ensure that the Foundation team and your university always have up to date mobile and email contact details so that you can be kept informed of Scholarship opportunities and deadlines.
- 3 You must meet the deadlines that you'll be given for annual applications for free accommodation.
- 4 You must complete this application form in full, with all the supporting documents, and return it your university before the deadline they have given you. No applications will be considered if received after the deadline but, if eligible, you could apply the following year.

University experience

- 5 You should stay in regular touch with your university named contact; – they are a brilliant source of information and support for all your academic, social and financial questions whilst at university. The Foundation University partners can also manage queries about your scholarship.
- 6 You should respond to termly communications from the Foundation. These will be a mix of meeting the Foundation team, small surveys, a competition or two, information about job/intern opportunities and chances to take part in Foundation activities like media or events. You can also get in touch with us for any questions related to the scholarship.

Scholarship Scheme evaluation

- 7 As a registered charity we are continuously seeking to improve the way that we work so as to have a better impact on care leaver and estranged young students. Each year we will conduct a survey that collects numeric and qualitative data. You must fill this in and should be completely honest so that the feedback can lead to improvements.
- 8 You could take part in Scholar focus groups that discuss the scholarship scheme and develop ideas that improve our communications, operations or fundraising.

Applying for a Unite Foundation Scholarship 2017/18

The Unite Foundation Board wishes to create a scholarship group that reflects the full breadth of background, area of study and academic ability seen in the wider student population. As a result there is an element of chance and although all aspects of your application will be taken into consideration, no single criterion has greater weight than another.

Part 1: Personal details

UCAS Number	
Surname	
Forename(s) (in full)	
Correspondence address	
Hometown	
Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	
Age	
Email address	
Mobile number	
How did you hear of our Scholarship Scheme?	

Please tick the statement that best describes your circumstances.

- Care leaver
- I am irreconcilably estranged from all parents

Part 2: Academic information

Name of university	
Full Course Title	
UCAS course code	
Qualification (e.g. BA, BSc etc)	
Which year of course support sought	
Length of course (1,2,3,4 or 5 years)	
Expected course graduation date	

Details of the offer from your university	
Career ambition (at the moment)	
A level/BTEC/AS level subject and grades predicted/achieved (delete as appropriate)	
GCSE/BTec/other qualifications subject and grades achieved	

Part 3: Student Finance

Have you applied for the full student finance package that you are entitled to as a care leaver or estranged young person?

- Yes
 No

If not, please explain why:

Please list the other forms of financial support you can access, have applied for or will apply for (e.g. bursary from the university itself or other sources). Please indicate if you have started the application process for this support.

Part 4: Accommodation

This information will not be used to assess your application, but if you are successful it will help us to meet your needs.

If you have already applied to live in Halls of Residence for 2017/18 please tell us *which hall or building and city*.

Do you have any special requirements for your accommodation or is there anything that it would be useful for your accommodation provider to know?

- Yes
- No

Part 5: Supporting Statement

Please give a brief description of your current circumstances, an overview of your personal and career ambitions at the moment, plus an insight into what pursuing an educational opportunity means to you. (Maximum 250 words).

You can save your statement as a word/pdf file if you prefer and email it to your university contact but be sure to use the format: : "Unite Foundation statement – Your Surname, Your First name".

Part 6: Declaration

I declare that the information that I have given on this form is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I understand that giving false information will automatically disqualify my application.

I understand that my application details will be passed on to the Unite Foundation team and Trustees in order to review my application and make a decision.

I understand that the information provided in Section 4 of the form may be passed on to the manager of the relevant Unite Students accommodation if my application is successful.

I understand that by signing this application I confirm I have understood and will adhere to the Scholarship responsibilities. Failure to do so may result in the removal of Scholarship benefits.

I consent to the University sharing the data it holds about my enrolment, academic progress and student finance with the Unite Foundation.

This information will be used solely for the administration of the scholarship scheme.

Your name (in capitals)

Your signature

Date

Remember

- Copies of the evidence for care leaver or estranged status (do not send originals).
- Your supporting statement
- Undertaking first and only course of undergraduate study ie you have not been to this or another university previously
- Equal opportunities form

Please indicate how you prefer to describe your ethnic group

Please tick one option.

The categories below are based on the current Office for National Statistics suggested ethnic groupings and will be used anonymously to monitor the application of the scholarship scheme.

Black/African/Caribbean/Black British

- Caribbean
- African
- Any other Black background (*please specify*)

Asian/Asian British

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Any other Asian background (*please specify*)

Other Ethnic Group

- Arab
- Any other ethnic background (*please specify*)

White

- English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
- Irish
- Gypsy or Irish Traveller

Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Any other mixed background (*please specify*)

- Prefer not to say