

Information and guidance; University Partners

The Foundation

The Unite Foundation is a charitable trust, registered with the Charity Commission in England, Wales and Scotland, 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 and for whom access to a secure home is particularly meaningful; students who have previously been in care or are estranged from their parents. We provide scholarships in partnership with Higher Education providers, and work collaboratively with voluntary sector organisations that share our vision and values.

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.

The Scholarship Scheme

The Unite Foundation Scholarship Scheme is at the heart of the Foundation and has supported 178 students to date with a scholarship that previously comprised accommodation and a living allowance.

Acting on feedback from partners and stakeholders, from 2017/18 onwards, each Scholar will receive free accommodation for three years of their undergraduate study. The accommodation offer is a single ensuite bedroom in a purpose built Unite Students flat.

This award will also be complemented by access to activities and opportunities that support Scholar employability.

NB: prospective Unite Foundation universities must be in reasonable proximity to an appropriate Unite Students building.

Existing partners

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|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| The University of Bristol | Queen Mary University of London |
| De Montfort University | Plymouth University |
| The University of Edinburgh | University of Portsmouth |
| Liverpool John Moores University | Sheffield Hallam University |
| King's College London | University College London |

Expansion

We want to ensure scholarship opportunities meet the needs of these talented and resilient young people, wherever their academic ambition lies. We are therefore expanding the number of scholarships we offer and increasing the universities with whom we can partner over the years to come. In 2017/18 alone we are seeking to double the number of universities hosting a Unite Foundation Scholar.

Quality Assurance Framework Agreement

The framework agreement asks universities to evidence the measures in place within their institution that support care leaver and estranged students; either exclusively or within broader practice. Most correlate to the good practice indicators within the StandAlone Pledge and, previously, the Buttle UK Quality Mark:

- effective links with relevant public and voluntary sector organisations that support purposeful data sharing, information and tailored outreach/transition activity
- a dedicated member of staff as key point of contact and advice for care leavers and estranged students
- availability of tailored support including finance, employability, academic skills, health and welfare with the capacity to offer holistic support
- ability to track and externally report access, progression and attainment for care leaver and estranged student populations
- engagement with teaching and learning staff in awareness raising and academic support of these populations
- commitment to engage with Unite Foundation Partnership research and impact measurement activity

Selection of active partners for 2017/18 intake

It is anticipated that more interest in partnership will be received than can be made active for the 2017/18 intake. All quality assurance being equal, Trustees will make this first selection in the light of the additional priorities which are not weighted:

- aim of establishing a genuinely national scheme
- a partnership network that reflects the profile of the HE sector as a whole
- the extent to which the Unite Foundation Scholarship Scheme can add value to existing initiatives, funding and schemes

Universities are advised that success or otherwise in joining the partnership and/or being a host for a 2017/18 scholar, is in no way dependent upon, or a reflection of, any relationship between Unite Students plc and the applicant institution.

Timeline

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| Deadline for framework agreements | 13 th April 2017 |
| Applicants informed of outcome | 30 th April 2017 |

Process

Download the framework agreement from the Unite Foundaton website at www.unitefoundation.co.uk and return to info@unitefoundation.co.uk before noon on 13th April 2017.

For any queries or support please get in touch with the team:

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