

# Care Experienced Students Guide

Academic Year  
2026-27

MAKING  
LEARNING  
WORK

Forth  
Valley  
College



# CARE EXPERIENCED STUDENTS GUIDE

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

Care experienced students who are studying a Full-Time Further Education (FE) course (up to SCQF level 6), can apply for the Care Experienced Bursary. Students who are studying a Full-Time Higher Education (HE) course (SCQF level 7 or above) should apply to SAAS for their equivalent funding.

### WHAT IS THE CARE EXPERIENCED BURSARY?

The Care Experienced Bursary is a maintenance bursary which is paid to help students with their living costs while studying. The bursary rate for Academic Session 2026-27 is £225 per week. This bursary is not-means assessed which means there will be no deduction made to the weekly award based on your assessable household income.

Please note that if you are awarded Care Experienced Bursary and apply for other funds (e.g. travel, study materials, housing or childcare) these will be means-assessed as they would be for any student.

You can find out more about means-assessment and anything else you may want to know about the options for funding while at college on our [website](#).

### AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE CARE EXPERIENCED BURSARY?

You may be eligible for the Care Experienced Bursary if you are:

- Beyond the statutory school leaving age
- AND**
- Care experienced,
  - A care leaver,
  - A 'looked-after-child', OR
  - In/have been in an informal care arrangement

### CATEGORIES OF CARE EXPERIENCE

These categories represent the types of care experience that would qualify you as 'Care Experienced' for the Care Experienced Bursary.

- Being the subject of a permanence order,
- Being in foster care,
- Being in residential care, residential schools, and/or secure units,
- Being cared for under a kinship care arrangement (formal or informal),
- Being the subject of a compulsory supervision order with no condition of residence (looked after at home)
- Being the subject of a compulsory supervision order with a condition of residence (looked after away from home)

- Being cared for under an informal care arrangement which can be confirmed by either your Local Authority or Social Work Department.

If your circumstances are not described above, or you are unsure if you meet one of the criteria, please contact Student Funding for help.

### WHAT EVIDENCE WILL I BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT?

When applying for funding, you must provide evidence to support your application. If you have disclosed yourself as care experienced then you must upload evidence of this to your funding application.

Usually this will be a letter from a care worker, social work department, or local authority. This letter should be headed, and include:

- your name,
- date of birth,
- the category of care you have experience of
- the relevant dates of the care experience.

**If you are having any issues with getting this evidence, please get in touch with Student Funding so we can advise you.**

### ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE

Outside of your application for Student Funding, if you require any additional support while attending college you can contact the Support and Guidance Team.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/student-info/support-advice/care-experienced>

### CONTACT US

If you need assistance or have questions, the Student Funding Team is here to help you. Phone and visit options are available Mon - Fri, 9am - 1pm during term time or schedule an appointment by email.

**Phone:** Student Funding 01324 403041

**Email:** [funding@forthvalley.ac.uk](mailto:funding@forthvalley.ac.uk)  
(include your student ID number)

**Visit us:** Falkirk Campus Student Hub



[www.forthvalley.ac.uk](http://www.forthvalley.ac.uk)