**Care Leaver Bursary – 2022-23**

**BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERSITY**

1. Introduction
	1. Care leavers will receive a non-means tested annual payment of £1,500 for each year of undergraduate study to help with essential living costs, with exception of final year when a total of £2,000 will be paid to help secure accommodation after leaving the University.
	2. Care leavers are not required to apply for this award but are required to provide evidence of their care leaver status to the University for the payment to be made. Care leavers are encouraged to confirm their status as soon as possible to access the full complement of funds. Payments will only be made from the point of confirmed status onwards.

2.0.Eligibility

2.1. The Care Leaver Bursary is only available to fully enrolled home students at the University following a full-time or part-time undergraduate course on campus. You must meet our definition of a care leaver and will be required to evidence you meet the definition.

We are identifying a Care Leaver as someone who meets all the following:

* Is aged under 25 on the first day of the current academic year i.e., 1 September 2022; and
* Is eligible for Care Leaver Personal Adviser Support from their Local Authority because they are a Care Leaver who is pursuing higher education; and
* Was in the Care of a UK Local Authority for a period of at least 13 weeks and this period spanned their 16th birthday.

2.2. Students studying a Foundation Year (Year 0), HND, or Foundation Degree are eligible for the Care Leaver Bursary.

2.3. Students following an integrated undergraduate and postgraduate course and in receipt of undergraduate funding are also eligible for the Bursary. However, the Bursary will only be paid for the undergraduate years of study (usually the first three years).

2.4. Payments to part-time students will be made on a pro rata basis to ensure that the total awarded over the duration of the course reflects the full-time equivalent award. The pro rata payment will be based on the student’s intensity of study, established by their expected study period over the full length of the undergraduate course.

For example, a part time student studying an undergraduate degree course over 6 years (where courses of that level normally take three years if studied full time) will be classed as studying at 50% intensity and will therefore receive 50% of the full-time equivalent award each year.

2.5. Students who are repeating a full year of study may receive the Care Leaver Bursary if, during the repeat year, they are in receipt of undergraduate funding for tuition fees from their statutory funding provider.

2.6. Students following a placement year will be considered at the discretion of the University, but only if they are not in receipt of a salary from the placement provider.

2.7. Payments will only be made from the year in which care leaver status is confirmed by the University through the Bursary application process.

3.0. Ineligible

3.1. The following students are not eligible for the Care Leaver Bursary:

* International and EU fee-payers
* Students undertaking Professional Practice/CPD courses
* Students undertaking non-credit bearing courses
* Students undertaking short credit-bearing courses
* Students who do not maintain their place on the course at the point of payment of each instalment
* Students who are temporarily withdrawn or suspended from their studies at the point at which a payment is due. Such students will be eligible to receive the Bursary on their return to study, providing all other eligibility criteria are met and the Bursary is still offered by the University
* Students who have permanently withdrawn or been permanently withdrawn or been excluded from their course
* Students following a military or Teach First course

3.2. In any case where a student’s eligibility for the Bursary under these criteria is not clear, and in cases where a decision is discretionary, a final decision will be made by the Care Leaver Oversight Group.

4.0. Payments

4.1. The Care Leaver Bursary will be paid in three instalments during each eligible year of study.

For eligible full-time undergraduate students, payments will usually be made in December (£500), March (£500), and June (£500); final year students will receive an increased payment (£1,000) in June of their final year to take the total award for that year to £2,000. For eligible part-time undergraduate students, payments will be pro-rota.

4.2. Payment will be made by BACS directly to your nominated bank account. This must be a bank account held in your name only. Payments cannot be made to joint accounts or accounts held in the name of another person. You will need to provide evidence that the bank account is held in your name.

5.0. General

5.1. The University has complete discretion to decide how long we will make the Bursary available for and reserves the right to close the Bursary to new applicants at any time. In the event that the Bursary is closed updates will be provided [here](https://www.bcu.ac.uk/student-info/student-support/care-leavers). If you have already received confirmation that you will be receiving a payment from the Bursary at the point at which it is closed, that payment will be honoured subject to the terms and conditions of the Care Leaver Bursary set out above.

5.2. From time to time the University may make changes to these Care Leaver Bursary terms and conditions.

5.3. The Care Leaver Bursary replaces any previous financial support offered by the University for care leavers or care experienced students.