



student finance **england**  
the student finance experts

2015/16

Maintenance grant



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Care  
leaver

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HIGHER EDUCATION LIAISON OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

September 2014

# Care leaver

Students leaving the care of their local authority (LA) are able to get the same support as other students. They're also likely to qualify for additional support.

## Maintenance Grant

We class students leaving the care of their LA as care leavers, as long as they don't return to the care of their parent(s). This means their assessment for student finance won't be based on their parents' household income.

Unless they're expecting a significant unearned income while studying at university, they'll be able to get the maximum Maintenance Grant available. For academic year 2015/16 the maximum Maintenance Grant is £3,387.

This grant is available in addition to other support such as loans for tuition fees and living costs. This grant doesn't have to be repaid, unless the student leaves the course early.

A letter from a social worker or support worker confirming that the student was in the legal care of the LA can be used to demonstrate the student's status. This should be sent to us with the student's finance application.



## Bursaries

Care leavers may also be able to get additional financial support, such as fee discounts or cash awards from their university or college. Many universities and colleges offer specific Care Leaver Bursaries to young people coming to higher education from a care background.



## Other Support

Care leavers on a full-time or part-time higher education course will get funding from the LA responsible for their care. This might be in the form of a non-taxable bursary, payment for accommodation or fees. We don't include this support when calculating what finance students can get. To apply, students should contact their personal adviser, social worker or case worker at their LA.



All 2015/16 figures are subject to parliamentary approval.