



# Applying to University as a Young Carer Help Sheet

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## Applying

It is vital to make universities aware that you are a young carer on your UCAS form. There is a video about how to do this here: [LEAPS - How to identify yourself as a young carer](#)

Some universities will then contact you about schemes which you might be eligible for which could give you a lower (contextual) offer. Examples include

- Access UCL - [UCL Access Scheme](#)
- Kings College London Contextual offers - [Kings College Contextualised Admissions](#)

However most contextual offer schemes look at other criteria, such as your postcode, your family income and whether you will be first generation in your family to go to university. If any of these other criteria apply to you then you will be eligible for a far wider range of contextual offer schemes

If you are interested in applying to Oxford or Cambridge, or other highly competitive universities and are on track to get A and A\* grades there may be additional schemes and support available – e mail [ellen.walkinshaw@reigate.ac.uk](mailto:ellen.walkinshaw@reigate.ac.uk) for information

## Finance

Some universities offer a young carers bursary of £500 per year for students under the age of 25 and others offer travel bursaries in case you need to go home more often due to your caring responsibilities. Portsmouth University for instance offers a £750 bursary - [Portsmouth Young Carers Bursary](#)

Also have a look at [The Scholarship Hub](#)

Check that your university course doesn't invalidate any Carers Allowance you are receiving. If you are receiving Carers Allowance you can only study up to 21 hours a week including classes, lectures, tutorials, seminars and the independent study expected by the university. You must report a change in your circumstances if you receive Carers Allowance and start full-time education at university.

## What support can I get once I am at university?

Support can include Health and wellbeing support financial help Academic help and some universities run the Carer Passport scheme, which means you won't have to share your story multiple times with different staff. UCAS Have some really useful information regarding support programmes and help [UCAS - Students with Caring Responsibilities](#)

Examples of support at local universities

- [Kingston University Support for Young Adult Carers](#)
- [UCL Students with Caring Responsibility](#)
- [Kings College Support for Young Carers](#)
- [City University Support for Young Students](#)

[Top Tips for Young Carers Starting University](#)