Student Story

What do you think of the support at the University of Sheffield?

In general The University of Sheffield supports you in many ways. There is always somebody to turn to for advice even if it is just about bus times. They are extremely helpful and will never leave you stranded, even if they don’t know the answer they will point you in the right direction.

Is there any advice that you would give to any young care experienced students that are considering applying for Higher Education?

Make sure you talk to teachers, family or advisors about your plan and they will be able to guide you and help with the application process. Don’t let your care experience be in control of your life, higher education is for everybody and anybody. It is a wonderful experience and you get to meet many people from different cultures and backgrounds which is all in an experience as well as being educational. I would say make sure you ask as many people who will be able to give you an answer or help you.

How do you feel the University of Sheffield has impacted on your life so far?

The University of Sheffield has definitely been very welcoming and helpful since starting my degree. It has opened so many doors for me and I think that I have not even considered. Being in higher education has helped me develop my skills and find out more about myself and the things that I am good at and enjoy. The thought of living away from home was daunting at first but the staff at the university are always there to guide you if you need any support. It is such an amazing experience and you can take part in so many great opportunities.

What would you say to any care experienced students who think that University isn’t really for them because none of their friends do it, or they are from families that don’t have a background in HE etc?

I would recommend higher education to everyone and anyone as it will help you in the future and it is an experience that you will never forget, even if you decide to live at home and go to university.

Don’t sacrifice an opportunity like this just because you are not familiar with it or you don’t feel that you have the support to guide your University is not all about doctors and nurses either, you could study almost any subject you care about. If you think higher education is something you want, then speak to an advisor at school or college and tell them what you would like to do and interests that you have. They will be able to point you in the right direction and give you so much information about many places you are interested in.

Lastly, if you have experienced being in care, then do not set that down because your experience does not matter especially when progressing to University. There is so much support out there, especially in college and university and your background will not matter.

Ramisa, Health and Human Sciences

Contact Us

Remember, whether you’re a prospective or current student, you can get in touch with one of our designated support teams via our email address: care@sheffield.ac.uk

Information For Care Leavers.
Applying
As a care leaver, you can declare this information in your UCAS application. This will enable universities to put your circumstances into context and give your application additional consideration.

If you choose to apply to the University of Sheffield, we would encourage you to make use of our Disrupted Studies process. This gives you the chance to tell us more about any issues of a social, personal or domestic nature that have affected your education so far, or which may impact on any forthcoming exams.

We have a team of experts able to provide guidance and support you.

Getting in touch is easy. Simply use the links provided on this web page:
www.sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply/applying/careleavers
Or email: care@sheffield.ac.uk

Choosing the Right Course
The most important decision is to ensure you research your course choices carefully. You may need a specific qualification for the career you are aiming for. However, many people choose to study a subject they are passionate about and develop their employability skills during their time at university.

There is lots of advice on the UCAS website if you are unsure what to study:
www.ucas.com/apply/undergraduate

Once you’ve found the courses that interest you start to think about where you want to study. Make sure you visit a number of university open days before you make your application.
www.opendays.com

Support For You
If you accept an offer to study at the University of Sheffield, we have a member of staff who is dedicated to helping care leavers on a wide range of issues. You can talk to us about organising accommodation, understanding your finance entitlement or any other concern, no matter how big or small.

We can also act as a link between your local authority and the University. We can also put you in touch with one of our current students from a similar background so you can talk confidentially about making the transition to being a University of Sheffield student.

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Prospective Student Information
Applying to University can often be daunting and confusing but at the University of Sheffield, we are committed to helping talented students who are from a care background to explore all of their options and negotiate the UCAS application process.

We’re Here To Help.

Financial Support
Financial concerns can be a worry for both prospective and current students. At the University of Sheffield we are committed to making education accessible. Care Leavers who attend the University are entitled to a comprehensive financial support package – including a non-repayable care bursary.

The University of Sheffield in partnership with HSBC are also offering 5 scholarships worth up to £40,000 for students entering the University from a care background.

Our Financial Support Team is available to discuss your circumstances and talk you through the support that is available to you:
Email: financialhelp@sheffield.ac.uk

Our Commitment to Care Leavers
The University of Sheffield has been awarded the Buttle UK Quality Mark for its work with care leavers. The Buttle UK website is also a fantastic source of information for all care leavers intending to go to university.
www.buttleuk.org

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