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LSBU

LSBU Care Leavers Bursary 2025/26

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LSBU signed the Care Leaver Covenant in 2019 as a commitment to improve services for our care experienced community.

LSBU offer a Care Leavers Bursary of £1000 (pro-rated for part-time students).

This is paid in two instalments of **£500 in November and February** for the length of your course or until you reach 25 years.

Eligible students are invited via their LSBU email to apply towards the end of October of each academic year.

Who's eligible?

You are classed as a Care Leaver if you have been in the care of a Local Authority for at least 13 weeks during which you reached your 16th birthday; or been the subject of a care order under section 20 of The Children's Act 1989 between the ages of 16-18.

[Coram Voice website](#)

If you have been verified as a Care Leaver, each academic year of study you must meet the criteria below to be eligible for the Care Leavers Bursary:

- Home students
- Aged under 25 at the start of each academic year
- Fully enrolled on an undergraduate course
- Applied for your full student support entitlement from Student Finance (or if you choose not to, can show you would be eligible)

How do I apply?

If you have notified:

- UCAS or Student Finance
- The LSBU Personal Development Plan 'PDP'
- Contacted Student Advice via MyAccount

You should be **invited automatically in late October**. If in doubt, please don't hesitate to get in touch (see FAQs).

There is a short on-line application form via www.Blackbullion.com, and some evidence will need to be uploaded:

- A copy of your Student Finance England entitlement letter
- A letter from your Social Worker or Personal Advisor confirming the dates you were accommodated by the local authority and details of what additional support your local authority is offering while you are at university or your Pathway Plan. This letter must be hand signed and on headed paper

FAQs

I'm not sure if I am a 'Care Leaver'

We understand that some students with care experience do not define themselves as 'Care Leaver', and this can sometimes be a legal definition, rather than a personal aspect of identity.

If you are unsure whether you have Care Leaver status, you can check with your Leaving Care Team, Personal Adviser or see the [Coram Voice website](#) for more support. If you haven't been assessed as a Care Leaver by Student Finance England but think you meet the criteria, please get in touch with the Student Advice Team for support.

If you are not a Care Leaver but have spent time in care, we'd advise you also take a look at the LSBU Estranged Bursary.

Who do you share my information with?

The Student Advice Team at LSBU are the main point of contact for Student Support Bursary recipients, including students with care experience.

Student Advice are part of the Student Success department, and all personal information shared with this department is held securely. Please see [Data Protection | London South Bank University \(lsbu.ac.uk\)](#) for more or ask an Advisor.

With permission from a student, we are happy to discuss or share information with relevant support teams at the university, and would encourage students to declare on occasion, for example the Accommodation Team if a student lives in halls of residence and would like to apply for accommodation during the summer holidays.

Do you offer the bursary for Postgraduate study?

No, at this time the bursary is only for undergraduate students.

If you are a Postgraduate student who is a Care Leaver, please check out the FAQs for more support and make a confidential appointment with our support teams for more help, including access to the university Student Support Fund (hardship fund).

Please also make use of the Funding Hub available for free for all LSBU students via <https://www.blackbullion.com>.

Do you offer the bursary for Apprenticeship study?

No. For Apprentices, there is a government bursary schemes for Apprentices with care experience, please click through for more information: [Apprenticeships care leavers' bursary guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

What happens if I turn 25 before the end of my course?

At this time, the bursary is for Care Leavers, as defined by the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000. We cannot offer the bursary to students who are 25 or over at the start of each academic year.

However, we recognise the importance of both the #stophtecarecliff campaign and that care experience does not stop at 25. Therefore, we will continue to prioritise you for other financial support including the LSBU Student Support Fund (hardship fund). We will also remind you if

you are nearing the upper age range of the bursary to help make alternative plans and make use of www.blackbullion.com Funding Hub.

We also encourage you to access any other elements of the LSBU support package that is helpful for you for the duration of your studies, no upper age limit applied.

Do you offer the bursary for students repeating a year?

Yes, if other eligibility criteria are met. Though multiple repeat years will be looked at on a case-by-case basis and the bursary is pro-rated if part-time or completing modules rather than a full year.

I've only just heard about the bursary, now it's part the way through the year

Please get in touch.

Whilst we will not be able to offer the full year's bursary, you will be eligible for at least one instalment, and we will consider allocations mid-year on a case-by-case basis.

Do you offer support during the summer/graduation?

If we can, we will, but it is not guaranteed.

Each year the Student Advice Team strives to offer support funds as a priority to Student Support Bursary recipients. As such, it might be possible to offer a small summer support award to students for students in between academic years or graduation costs for final year students. This might be via supermarket vouchers.

If a summer support award can be made, students will be contacted in June each year. If you do not hear anything and you feel you need further financial support, please contact Student Advice via MyAccount.

What else is on offer for students with care experience at LSBU?

London South Bank University has been ranked third in the world for reducing inequality in the prestigious [Times Higher Impact Rankings 2024](#). As such, we are continually seeking to improve our offer for students with care experience.

We strive to be collaborative with our students and would welcome students with care experience to join our monthly drop-in, as well as book a one-to-one appointment.

For an overview of the services we offer, please look at our webpages:

[Support for independent students \(care leavers and estranged students\) | London South Bank University \(lsbu.ac.uk\)](#)

Students will also be emailed by the Student Advice Team via supportfunds@lsbu.ac.uk throughout the year to be invited to drop-ins and priority careers sessions.

If you would like to discuss the offer or any of the above with someone, please arrange a confidential appointment with the Student Advice Team:

[How can I book or cancel an appointment with support teams using MyAccount?](#)

During your appointment, the Advisor will be able to recommend suitable support services – for example, from LSBU or Student Finance England, to ensure you get the help that's right for you.