



## Care leavers' support for Kent students

University of  
**Kent**

# Care leavers' support for Kent students

**Starting university is exciting time in your life; a new environment, new people and new experiences. However most new students, regardless of their background, where they went to school and how confident they may appear will feel a bit daunted when they first arrive.**

For young people leaving care, there are many practical elements to consider which can make the transition to university more of a challenge. At the University of Kent we are committed to ensuring that every young person who has the intellectual ability and desire to pursue higher education should have the opportunity to do so and so we have put in place a range of support services specifically to address the needs of care leavers.

## **What support can Kent offer you?**

The University is committed to offering support to all of its students and has identified that key areas of concern for young people leaving care include the level of financial support and the availability of accommodation, particularly out of term time.

The Kent Care Leavers Pack includes:

- Guaranteed access to accommodation over holiday periods, including the summer vacation
- A laptop
- A resource catalogue where you can purchase essential items up to the value of £250 which may include:
  - Bedding and linen
  - Domestic equipment (saucepans, crockery etc)
  - White goods (microwave, kettle, iron etc)

## **Are you eligible?**

You may apply for the support package if you meet the following criteria:

- You are under 21 years of age
- You are a home UK fee paying student and have spent a minimum of twelve months continuous in the care of a UK local authority
- You have left the care of your local authority no more than four years prior to entering higher education
- You can provide written documentation from your local authority to support your status



## **Where to apply**

Please contact Careen Gadd, our student adviser, on 01227 824741 or at [C.E.Gadd@kent.ac.uk](mailto:C.E.Gadd@kent.ac.uk).

## **Live and work on campus**

Kent Union's Jobshop is one of the best ways to find employment as a student at Kent. It acts as a service to help you find a job to help fund your time through university. You can register online at [www.kentunionjobshop.co.uk](http://www.kentunionjobshop.co.uk) to search for available vacancies.

Jobshop advertises a range of positions including IT technicians, web developers, personal tutors, bar and waiting staff, child carers and publishing assistants. In addition to advertising vacancies for local employers, Jobshop also places students in temporary positions through an agency service.

## **Did you know?**

**KENT can offer you guaranteed accommodation, £250 for essential items and a laptop.**



### Other financial support you may be eligible for

#### Access to Learning Fund

Available if you are suffering financial hardship. You may be able to get help with the following:

- Course or living costs not already covered by other grants and loans eg living costs, childcare costs or support over the summer holiday period
- Emergency payments to cover unexpected financial crises (eg repairs to household equipment)
- If you are thinking about giving up your course because of financial worries and you require further support in order to keep studying

All UK home fee paying students are entitled to apply to this fund, however care leavers, students from low-income families, lone parents, mature students, foyer students, final year students and disabled students are deemed as a priority group.

You will be expected to have applied for all other financial support you are entitled to before applying for help from the Access to Learning Fund.

You will not have to repay any money you receive from the Access to Learning Fund.

### How to apply

Please contact Caren Gadd at the Student Union on 01227 824741 or at C.E.Gadd@kent.ac.uk.

Alternatively, you can contact the Financial Aid office on 01227 827974 or at financialaid@kent.ac.uk

### Other types of support available

At Kent we believe that all of our students should have a fulfilling and enjoyable experience whilst studying with us. We have a range of excellent support services and facilities including:

- Financial Aid office – [www.kent.ac.uk/finance-student](http://www.kent.ac.uk/finance-student) (01227 823488 / 824876)
- Student Advice Centre – [advice@kent.ac.uk](mailto:advice@kent.ac.uk) (01227 827724)
- Careers Advisory Service – [www.kent.ac.uk/careers](http://www.kent.ac.uk/careers) (01227 764000)
- Student Learning Advisory Service – [www.kent.ac.uk/uelt](http://www.kent.ac.uk/uelt) (01227 824016)
- Jobshop – [www.kentunionjobshop.co.uk](http://www.kentunionjobshop.co.uk) (01227 824251)
- Disability and Dyslexia Support Service [www.kent.ac.uk/ddss](http://www.kent.ac.uk/ddss) (01227 823158)
- Participation Unit – Stacey Young (01227 823663)
- Diversity and Equal Opportunities Advice [www.kent.ac.uk/equalityanddiversity](http://www.kent.ac.uk/equalityanddiversity) (01227 824781)
- Medical Centre – [www.kent.ac.uk/medical](http://www.kent.ac.uk/medical) (01227 823583)

- Counselling Service – [www.kent.ac.uk/counselling](http://www.kent.ac.uk/counselling) (01227 823206)
- Chaplaincy – [www.kent.ac.uk/chaplaincy](http://www.kent.ac.uk/chaplaincy)
- Nursery facilities – 01227 766686

You can also contact the master of your college for advice and pastoral support:

- Darwin – Nancy Gaffield (01227 827650) [N.Gaffield@kent.ac.uk](mailto:N.Gaffield@kent.ac.uk)
- Eliot – Dr Michael Hughes (01227 823320) [M.J.Hughes@kent.ac.uk](mailto:M.J.Hughes@kent.ac.uk)
- Keynes – Dr Anthony Ward (01227 827453) [A.H.Ward@kent.ac.uk](mailto:A.H.Ward@kent.ac.uk)
- Rutherford – Dr Rachel Forrester-Jones (01227 823470) [R.V.E.Forrester-Jones@kent.ac.uk](mailto:R.V.E.Forrester-Jones@kent.ac.uk)
- Woolf – Nancy Gaffield (01227 827650) [N.Gaffield@kent.ac.uk](mailto:N.Gaffield@kent.ac.uk)

The University also has a dedicated Information and Guidance Unit where you can receive expert advice on any aspect of higher education from a team of highly trained staff.

Information and Guidance  
The Registry  
University of Kent  
Canterbury  
Kent CT2 7NZ  
T: 0800 975 3777  
E: [information@kent.ac.uk](mailto:information@kent.ac.uk)  
[www.kent.ac.uk](http://www.kent.ac.uk)



**University of Kent**

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Kent CT2 7NZ

T: +44 (0)1227 764000

E: [recruitment@kent.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@kent.ac.uk)

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