

# Corporate Parenting Plan *bitesize*

Edinburgh Napier University:  
A Proud Corporate Parent

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## Edinburgh Napier University: A Proud Corporate Parent

Edinburgh Napier University has a proud history of successfully delivering initiatives to support underrepresented groups, including students from a care-experienced background, into higher education.

This concise version of Edinburgh Napier University's Corporate Parenting Plan has been designed to provide a user-friendly highlight of the support on offer at Edinburgh Napier

University for care-experienced individuals of all ages. Others such as parents, guardians, carers, and school guidance staff, community, service social or service workers may also find the information helpful.



## What does it mean to be care-experienced?

The term 'care-experience' refers to having been looked after by a local authority at some point. This care may have been provided in one of many different settings such as:

- in residential care;
- in foster care (through a local authority or charity/agency);
- in kinship care (with grandparents or other family members);
- looked after at home (Compulsory Supervision Order with no condition of residence);
- in a secure residential home;
- in other community settings.

It is quite common for individuals who may have experienced a relatively short placement in care, for example in early childhood, to not fully be aware of their care-experienced status. Edinburgh Napier University's Dedicated Named Contact, Peter, (details below) welcomes queries concerning care-experienced status, so please don't hesitate to get in touch if you require assistance.

## Dedicated Named Contact

Starting at university can be a daunting experience for many students and this may especially be the case if challenges have had to be overcome or if there were no expectations to go to university.

*"...I decided I want to be something more than what is expected of me"*

(Edinburgh Napier University, School of Applied Sciences student, care-experienced)

Peter (contact details at the end of this document), the Named Contact, is available to answer any questions new or continuing students may have about studying at university, such as:

- accessing services;
- accommodation options;
- concerns with course work such as assessments or transitioning to university life; or,
- to provide support with completing funding applications.

## Contextualised Admissions Policy

Edinburgh Napier University is keen to promote fair access to higher education as demonstrated by our 'contextualised admissions policy'<sup>1</sup>, commonly referred to as an adjusted admissions policy. Care-experienced applicants are considered eligible to receive an adjusted offer.



Adjusted offers details:

- **2 grades below** our typical entry published on our website. E.g. if the published minimum entry requirement is ABBB, a contextual offer holder would be required to achieve BBBC (or equivalent). Please note where the entry requirements include a required subject, for example a National 5 Mathematics qualification, this subject must still be achieved at the minimum requirement.
- For contextual offer holders we will 'double count' Highers and Advanced Highers when calculating a student's achievement.
- Passes for the purposes of admission are Higher Grade C or Advanced Higher Grade D or better.
- If unsure about Edinburgh Napier University's adjusted offers, or for degree programme specific entry requirements, please contact the Named Contact or Admissions team.

### Contextual Admissions Policy in Practice.....

A care-experienced applicant is offered a contextual offer. They are applying for *International Hospitality Management*. **They already have achieved BCCC** at Higher in S5 and have a National 5 C in Maths and English. The applicant will now typically receive an *Unconditional Offer*. The published **minimum entry grades are BBBC**. As a contextual applicant they are eligible for an offer 2 grades below this published minimum (BCCC). They have met the subject specific requirements, therefore they can be made an unconditional offer.

Please be directed to the University's Admissions Policy for further information:  
<https://www.napier.ac.uk/study-with-us/undergraduate/how-to-apply/application-advice-and-support>

To contact the University's Admissions Department, please email queries to ([ugadmissions@napier.ac.uk](mailto:ugadmissions@napier.ac.uk)).

<sup>1</sup> Contextual admissions: 'This means that universities consider an applicant's attainment within the wider context in which it has been obtained, for example their performance against their school's average, their family background (such as whether they are the first in their family to go to university) or the area they grew up in' ([Scottish Funding Council, 2018](#)).

## Financial Support

Currently there are two dedicated bursaries for care-experienced students available at Edinburgh Napier University:

- The Care Experienced Bursary; and
- The Enabling Achievement Bursary.

Both of these bursaries are worth £1,000 per year. The Care Experienced Bursary is open to all care-experienced undergraduate, postgraduate and associate (Edinburgh Napier University matriculated college-based) students to apply for each year of study.

The Enabling Achievement Bursary provides a £1,000 scholarship for each year of study (automatically renewed annually) running from 2016/17 to 2019/20, and is subject to limited availability. Students can be awarded both bursaries.

Edinburgh Napier University bursary details can be found [here](#):

<http://my.napier.ac.uk/Wellbeing-and-Support/Money/other-trusts/Pages/Other-Trusts.aspx>

## SAAS Care Experienced Bursary and Accommodation Grant

The SAAS Care Experienced Students Bursary is available to full-time students undertaking an eligible undergraduate course from 2017/18 onwards. You may be eligible to claim the Care Experienced Student Bursary if:

- You have ever been looked after by a Local Authority; and
- You are under 26 on the first day of the first academic year of your course (for most students, who start in the autumn term, the relevant date is 1 August.).



SAAS have compiled a full list of the types of care-experience [here](#):

[http://www.saas.gov.uk/forms/care\\_experienced\\_annex.pdf](http://www.saas.gov.uk/forms/care_experienced_annex.pdf)



## Accommodation

Through the University's Student Accommodation Service, care-experienced students are guaranteed a place in university accommodation, regardless of their home address, **365 days a year for the entirety of their course**. Full-year access to University accommodation removes the obstacle of finding alternative accommodation during holiday periods, however students are required to self-fund accommodation costs.

Get in touch, stay in touch...

It is hoped that this Corporate Parenting plan represents Edinburgh Napier University's ethos, and strategic aim, to

*"become the sector leader for widening participation in our communities, facilitating the future success of all students, irrespective of background, through a focus on access..."*

(Edinburgh Napier University's Widening Participation Strategy 2016-2018).



As an institution Edinburgh Napier University is committed to promoting fair access to higher education. The policies outlined in this Corporate Parenting plan are designed to assure care-experienced people of all ages that Edinburgh Napier University is a welcoming and nurturing environment to continue your educational journey. If you are unsure if university study is for you please get in touch, and if you have already been in touch and require further information please don't hesitate to get in contact again.

You may also be interested in reading Edinburgh Napier University's full-length Corporate Parenting Plan which contains comprehensive details of how the University offers support to students moving in, moving through and moving on from higher education; the measures the institution has put in place to promote greater access; and, also provides the context on why promoting continued study to care-experienced individuals is a priority to universities.

To contact Student Accommodation please email: [accommodation@napier.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@napier.ac.uk)

### Stay in touch:

To contact the Edinburgh Napier University's Named Contact, please email Peter [p.tormey@napier.ac.uk](mailto:p.tormey@napier.ac.uk) / telephone 0131 455 2383

To contact the Edinburgh Napier University's Widening Participation team, please email the team inbox [wideningaccess@napier.ac.uk](mailto:wideningaccess@napier.ac.uk)