

Supporting care leavers and estranged students into and through Higher Education

Have you ever been in care or are you estranged from your family? Want to know more about the support available to you at De Montfort University?

Deciding to come to university is a big step for all students. It can also be one of the most exciting and challenging periods of your life, where you will face new experiences and meet a wide range of people with different views and opinions.

DMU tries to ensure that all students have a good level of support for their academic and personal life. However, we recognise that for care leavers and those estranged from their families, many of the support networks that other students benefit from may not be available. To help address this there are designated Guidance Workers based in Student Services who can help you should you need any advice or encounter any problems.

What does DMU offer?

Personal support

It is often easier to go to one place for any queries or concerns you may have. In order to provide this service the Guidance Workers can offer you in-depth advice, guidance and support before and during your time at DMU. If you have any queries or you or your carer or worker would like to visit DMU before starting your course, please email transitions@dmu.ac.uk or ring (0116) 257 7595.

Financial support

When you apply to university there is a tick box on the UCAS application form asking you if you have ever spent any time in care. This has been added to the UCAS form so universities can identify students who may need additional support. Not all students will want or need any extra support but it can be reassuring to know that it is available should you choose to access it. The tick box also enables DMU to identify care leavers who are eligible for a £1000 a year bursary. From 2010/11 this bursary will be extended to estranged students.

You will be asked to provide proof that you have been in care or are estranged from your family. More help with living and accommodation costs may be available in the form of the Access to Learning Fund. This is for enrolled students on a low income who require additional help to stay on their course.

Care leavers and young people who are estranged are priority groups for getting help from the Access to Learning Fund. For more information listen to our audio file for care leavers available on the Money and Welfare website <http://www.dmu.ac.uk/moneyandwelfare>

Accommodation

DMU offers accommodation 365 days a year for care leavers. We aim to make the move to a new city as smooth as possible by offering comfortable and safe halls of residence, close to Leicester City Campus. You may not wish to stay in halls through the long vacation and we can help you to explore the options.

Study support

All students have access to study support while at DMU. The Centre for Learning and Study Support, Maths Learning Centre and IT Centre all offer workshops and one-to-one support. They are based in the Kimberlin Library. It's worthwhile checking their web pages before you arrive so you are aware of the help available library.dmu.ac.uk/Support/Support

The Transitions Team offer a programme of workshops to help you prepare and adjust to life at DMU, for more details visit dmu.ac.uk/study/studentsservices

For more help or to arrange a visit, contact:
The Transitions Team
Email transitions@dmu.ac.uk
Tel: 0116 257 7595
Website:
<http://www.dmu.ac.uk/study/studentsservices/>



The Frank Buttle Trust

*The Frank Buttle Trust
buttletrust.org
Quality Mark recognises the
particular work that
De Montfort University does to
support students who were in
Local Authority care.*

T: (0116) 257 7595 E: studentservices@dmu.ac.uk

Ground Floor, Gateway House, The Gateway, Leicester LE1 9BH

Student Services