# University of Chester Bursaries

# Academic Year 24/25

Policy and Guidance

We provide several financial bursaries to support certain student groups studying at the University of Chester.

The bursaries we offer are:

* The Chester Bursary
* The Foundation Bursary
* Estranged Student Bursary.
* Care Experienced Bursary
* Carers Support Package
* Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, Showman, Boater Bursary.

Our bursaries will be awarded to students who meet the eligibility criteria at the time of allocation. Please note, meeting the eligibility criteria does not guarantee you’ll receive a bursary.

The full details and eligibility criteria of each bursary can be found at the end of this document; however, the below guidance applies to all our bursaries.

If you are studying at a partner college you will not be eligible for a bursary except if you are studying BA Musical Theatre Performance at the Hammond School, which is eligible for the Chester Bursary or at Reaseheath College on the BSc Animal Behaviour and Welfare when you are eligible for consideration for any of our bursaries.

You can normally only receive one Bursary. However, exceptions include:

* Carer Support Package – this can be awarded with the Foundation Year Bursary at Level 3, or the Chester Bursary at Level 4.
* Care Experienced Bursary – this can be awarded with the Foundation Year Bursary at Level 3.
* Estranged Bursary – this can be awarded with the Foundation Year Bursary at Level 3.
* Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, Showman, Boater Bursary – this can be awarded with Foundation Year Bursary at Level 3.
1. Assessment of awards

Where possible, we aim to complete all assessments by Friday 15th March 2024. This date may be extended if needed.

If you are a full-time student, we collect information about your household income from Student Finance. Please make sure Student Finance has completed your income assessment before 15th March 2024, and they have consented to share this information with the university.

1. Payment dates

We’ll pay bursary cash payments for the 2023/24 academic year in three instalments:

* Instalment 1: 1 December 2023
* Instalment 2: 16 February 2024 (Excluding Foundation Year Bursary, and Chester Bursary)
* Instalment 3: 17 May 2024

The dates are the earliest dates payments will be made, however please be aware there may be occasions when payments are unavoidably delayed.

1. Interruption of studies

Should you take an interruption of your studies, we’ll stop the payment of any bursary during this time.

Any unpaid instalments will be reinstated when you return to university and will be paid in line with the published payment dates. Any fee waivers will be applied on a pro rata basis dependent on when your interruption begins and ends.

It’s your responsibility (the student’s) to advise the Your Money Team of your return to studies.

# Bursary Eligibility Criteria 2023-2024

Meeting the eligibility criteria does not guarantee that a bursary or scholarship will be allocated as there are limited numbers available.

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| Foundation Year Bursary |
| Award | Cash payment of £500 for one year only. |
| Eligibility Criteria | * New level 3, full-time undergraduate students starting university for first time in Academic Year 2023/24, paying Tuition fees of at least £6,000.
* A declared household income of £25,000 or less.
* Ordinarily resident in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland.
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| Exclusion Criteria | * Students who have their fees paid (in full or in part) through a sponsorship / apprenticeship arrangement. Self-funded students may be eligible, please contact studentservices@chester.ac.uk.
* Students who are studying at Partner Colleges. (BA Musical Theatre Performance at the Hammond School is eligible – Note: Hammond do not offer foundation year)
* Students studying at Reaseheath College (BSc Animal Behaviour and Welfare is eligible - Foundation level is SINAMWF)
* EU and international students
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| Chester Bursary |
| Award | £1,500 cash payment paid as follows:Full-time Students

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| Level 4 | £500 cash |
| Level 5 | £500 cash |
| Level 6 | £500 cash |

Part-time StudentsThe bursary is paid in two instalments each academic year, on a pro rata basis as follows each year:

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| Level 4, 5 and 6 credits  |
| Credit Intensity | Bursary Value |
| 40 credits | £167 |
| 60 credits | £250 |
| 80 credits | £333 |
| 100 credits | £416 |
| 120 credits | £500 |

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| Eligibility Criteria | Full-time Students* An Undergraduate student, new to level 4 at university of Chester in Academic Year 2023/24, paying a tuition fee of at least £6,000.
* With a declared household income of £25,000 or less.
* Ordinarily a resident in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland.
* Part-time Students
* An Undergraduate student, new to level 4 at university of Chester in Academic Year 2023/24
* Attending a course with a tuition fee of at least £7,000 (full time equivalent) leading to a BA/ BSc / LLB /, BTh, or Foundation Degree qualification.
* Enrolled for a minimum of 40 credits at the start of level 4.
* With a declared household income of £25,000 or less.
* Ordinarily a resident in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland.
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| Exclusion Criteria | * Students who have their fees paid (in full or in part) through a sponsorship / apprenticeship arrangement. Self-funded students may be eligible, please contact studentservices@chester.ac.uk.
* Students receiving an NHS Bursary (pre Aug 2017 entry) or NHS Training Grant. This includes Nursing, Midwifery, Nutrition and Dietetics students.
* Students studying at the Centre for Foundation Studies at the university of Chester.
* Students who are studying at Partner Colleges (BA Musical Theatre Performance at the Hammond School is eligible).
* Students studying at Reaseheath College (BSc Animal Behaviour and Welfare is eligible)
* Students on Social work degrees. If at levels 5 and 6 a social work student receives an NHS Bursary, they will no longer receive the Chester Bursary.
* EU and international students
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| Care Experienced Bursary |
| Award | £7,500 award (£10,000 if studying at Level 3) paid as follows:

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| Level 3 | £1500 cash, and £1000 fee waiver |
| Level 4 | £1500 cash, and £1000 fee waiver |
| Level 5 | £1500 cash, and £1000 fee waiver |
| Level 6 | £1500 cash, and £1000 fee waiver |

This bursary also includes a 50% reduction in university owned accommodation fees (should this benefit not be used there will be no alternative offer available). * We may not be able to offer you your first choice of accommodation. You may be offered an alternative accommodation (e.g., standard room, shared bathroom, non-catered).
* Where our sites offer no university-owned accommodation or we have no more spaces within university-owned accommodation, students will be offered £2500 towards alternative accommodation. This cash award towards alternative accommodation only applies for those who have applied to university-owned accommodation.
* Postgraduates with care experienced status who completed their undergraduate studies at UoC are eligible for an extra 25% fee waiver. This is in addition to the 20% discount from the Graduate Loyalty Scheme so a total discount of 45%.
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| Eligibility Criteria | * Students at any undergraduate level may apply (inc FD). Payments will be pro rata, based on the year of application and level of study.
* Students who transfer in at level 5 or level 6 may apply.
* Paying a tuition fee of at least £6,000.
* 25 years of age or under on 1st September 2023 with a minimum of 3 months spent in care prior to their 18th birthday
* Ordinarily resident in England, Wales, Scotland, or Northern Ireland.
* Evidence of care experienced status is required:
	+ Living in a residential children's home
	+ Being looked after at home under a supervision order
	+ Living with foster carers
	+ Living with relatives or friends in kinship care, either through a formal arrangement e.g. Special Guardianship Order or informal arrangement without local authority support
	+ Earlier or shorter experiences of care, such as those who left care through adoption.

Assessments must be completed by 15th March 2024. |
| Exclusion Criteria | * Students who have their fees paid (in full or in part) through a sponsorship / apprenticeship arrangement. Self-funded students may be eligible, please contact studentexperience@chester.ac.uk  NB. support from your Local Authority is not considered sponsorship.
* Students who are studying at Partner Colleges including the Hammond
* Students studying at Reaseheath College (BSc Animal Behaviour and Welfare is eligible)
* EU and international students
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| Estranged Student Bursary |
| Award | £4,500 award (£6,000 if studying at Level 3) paid as follows:

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| Level 3 | £1500 cash |
| Level 4 | £1500 cash |
| Level 5 | £1500 cash |
| Level 6 | £1500 cash |

* This bursary also includes a 50% reduction in university owned accommodation fees
* We may not be able to offer you your first choice of accommodation. You may be offered an alternative accommodation (e.g., standard room, shared bathroom, non-catered).
* Where our sites offer no university-owned accommodation or we have no more spaces within university-owned accommodation, students will be offered £2500 towards alternative accommodation. This cash award towards alternative accommodation only applies for those who have applied to university-owned accommodation.
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| Eligibility Criteria | * Students at any undergraduate level may apply (inc FD). Payments will be pro rata, based on the year of application and level of study.
* Students who transfer in at level 5 or level 6 may apply.
* Paying a tuition fee of at least £6,000.
* 25 years of age or under on 1st September 2023 and irreconcilably estranged from their family for more than 12 months
* Ordinarily resident in England, Wales, Scotland, or Northern Ireland

Assessments must be completed by 15th March 2024 and will require written or verbal confirmation of estranged/ independent status from the Student Loans Company. |
| Exclusion Criteria | * Students who have their fees paid (in full or in part) through a sponsorship / apprenticeship arrangement. Self-funded students may be eligible, please contact studentexperience@chester.ac.uk. NB. support from your Local Authority is not considered sponsorship.
* Students who are studying at Partner Colleges including the Hammond
* Students studying at Reaseheath College (BSc Animal Behaviour and Welfare is eligible).
* EU and international students
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| Carer Support Package |
| Award | £4,500 award (or £6,000 if studying at Level 3) paid as follows:

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| Level 3 | £1500 cash |
| Level 4 | £1500 cash |
| Level 5 | £1500 cash |
| Level 6 | £1500 cash |

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| Eligibility Criteria | * Students at any undergraduate level may apply (inc FD). Payments will be pro rata, based on the year of application and level of study.
* With a declared household income of £40,000 or less.
* Students who transfer in at level 5 or level 6 may apply.
* Paying a tuition fee of at least £6,000.
* Ordinarily resident in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland
* Evidence of carer status is required:
	+ Working with a recognised Young Carer’s Organisation in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland or
	+ Previously in receipt of Carer’s Benefits or
	+ Notification letter or section B of UoC application form completed by student’s family GP, social worker or staff member from student’s Carer Network.

Assessments must be completed by 15th March 2024.  |
| Exclusion Criteria | * Students who have their fees paid (in full or in part) through a sponsorship / apprenticeship arrangement. Self-funded students may be eligible, please contact studentexperience@chester.ac.uk.
* Students who are studying at Partner Colleges including the Hammond
* Students studying at Reaseheath College (BSc Animal Behaviour and Welfare is eligible)
* EU and international students
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| Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, Showman, Boater Bursary |
| Award | £4,500 cash award (£6,000 if studying at Level 3) paid as follows:

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| Level 3 | £1500 cash |
| Level 4 | £1500 cash |
| Level 5 | £1500 cash |
| Level 6 | £1500 cash |

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| Eligibility Criteria | * Students at any undergraduate level may apply (inc FD). Payments will be pro rata, based on the year of application and level of study.
* Students who transfer in at level 5 or level 6 may apply.
* Paying a tuition fee of at least £6,000.
* You have identified as Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, Showman, Boater on your UCAS / enrolment application.
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| Exclusion Criteria | * Students who have their fees paid (in full or in part) through a sponsorship / apprenticeship arrangement. Self-funded students may be eligible, please contact studentexperience@chester.ac.uk.
* Students who are studying at Partner Colleges. (BA Musical Theatre Performance at the Hammond School is eligible – Note: Hammond do not offer foundation year)
* Students studying at Reaseheath College (BSc Animal Behaviour and Welfare is eligible - Foundation level is SINAMWF)
* EU and international students
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