

# Support for **care-experienced** and **estranged students** thinking about university.

Starting university is an exciting time in your life: a new environment, new people and new experiences. Many students may feel a bit daunted when they first arrive, regardless of how confident they may appear.

At the University of Kent, we stand for ambition. We are committed to supporting students to access, succeed in and progress from university, regardless of their background. For young people leaving care or who are estranged, there are many practical elements to consider and we have put in place a range of support services specifically to address the needs of care-experienced and estranged students.

## Who are care-experienced and estranged students?

- Being care-experienced means you will have spent time: living with foster carers under local authority care; in residential care (eg a children's home); being looked after at home under a supervision order; or in kinship care with relatives or friends – either officially (eg a special guardianship order), or informally without local authority support.
- A care leaver is someone who is, or has been, in the care of the Local Authority for a period of 13 weeks or more, spanning their 16th birthday.
- An estranged student is someone who is studying without the support or approval of their parents due to breakdown in relationship.





## How we can help

### Designated Member of Staff (DMS)

Hello! My name is Shauna-Aine O'Brien and I am the Targeted Outreach Manager at The University of Kent, and also DMS for care experienced and estranged students. I'm here to help support and guide you and your supporters on your journey to higher education, including help with:

- UCAS applications
- Personal statements
- Clearing
- Open day and applicant day travel costs
- Applying for accommodation
- Student finance

### Activities and events

We also organise activities and events for care experienced or estranged students and their supporters. For more details, scan the QR codes below. Got a question or want to chat? Email me at [stjo@kent.ac.uk](mailto:stjo@kent.ac.uk)

#### Support for care-experienced students



#### Support for estranged students

