

Care-Experienced Student Bursary data 2018-19

Introduction

1. This paper outlines the data we have on students who were able to claim the Care-Experienced Student Bursary in 2018-19.
2. The first part of the paper focusses on further education (FE) students who claimed the Bursary through their college, the second part on the higher education (HE) students and the data which SAAS gave SFC's Care-Experienced Governance Group at its meeting in November 2019. We thought it would be helpful that both sets of data were in the one paper.

Background

3. The Care-Experienced Student Bursary is a non-repayable bursary for learners with care-experience¹. It was introduced following on from recommendations for care-experienced learners in the CoWA report in AY 2017-18. It was introduced as a non-income assessed, non-repayable grant of £7,625 and was made available to both new and continuing eligible students in HE. At that time, care-experienced students in FE were awarded the maximum FE Bursary level of £4,185.
4. The Bursary was increased to £8,100 per year and extended to full-time students studying at FE level from AY 2018-19, in response to findings from the independent review of FE and HE student support.
5. To be eligible for the Bursary in 2018-19 a student must:
 - Be care-experienced, within the UK.
 - Be under 26 years of age on first day of the first academic year of the course. For most students, who start in the autumn term, the relevant date is 1 August.
 - Be studying full-time at a Scottish college or university.
 - Are beyond their statutory school.
6. From AY 2020-21 the age cap for the Care-Experienced Student Bursary is being removed.

¹ Care-experience: *Anyone who has been or is currently in care or from a looked-after background at any stage of their life, no matter how short, including adopted children previously looked-after. Care may have been provided in one of many different settings such as in residential care, foster care, kinship care¹ or looked after at home with a supervision requirement.*

Purpose of the Bursary

7. Care-experienced young people and adults include some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our society. The Bursary was introduced by the Scottish Government as the gap in educational outcomes between those from a care-experienced background and their peers is too large. It focuses on those that require the most support and is intended to ensure care-experienced people have equal opportunities to access and succeed in further and higher education level. It should give care-experienced students financial sustainability during their studies.
8. Quote from Deputy First Minister: “The Care-Experienced Bursary should be recognised as a means to remove barriers including debt and to incentivise entry into HE and FE for care-experience learners. The Care-Experienced Bursary should be seen as part of a wider suite of support that can be provided to improve outcomes for people with experience of care. As such, this award is intended to enhance rather than replace any existing financial and practical support provided by Local Authorities and other relevant Corporate Parents.”

Care-Experienced Student Bursary Recipients

9. Table 1 shows the total number of the Care-Experienced Student Bursary (CESB) recipients who were studying at college at further and higher education level in AY 2018-19, with the number of care-experienced (CE) students studying full-time by headcount, and the percentage of CE students claiming the Bursary compared to number of full-time CE students. The high percentages at some colleges (over 90%) show that not all CE students studying full-time are disclosing their status at enrolment. We might expect a lower percentage due to tougher eligibility including the age cap which excludes CE students aged 26 and over.

Table 1: FE Care-Experienced Student Bursary recipients at College and University in 2018-19

	FE Bursary recipients	HE Bursary recipients	CE Full-Time Headcount**	% of CE students claiming Bursary
Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire	70	20	70	129%
Ayrshire	205	35	340	71%
Borders	40	5	55	82%
Dumfries and Galloway	45	*	50	90%
Edinburgh	155	40	255	76%
Fife	155	20	160	109%
Forth Valley	85	10	165	58%
Glasgow	260	110	715	52%
Highlands & Islands	140	<i>See Table 7</i>	175	106%
Lanarkshire	95	45	195	72%
Scotland’s Rural College	30	<i>See Table 7</i>	30	133%
Tayside	145	15	310	52%
West	125	45	305	56%
West Lothian	35	5	110	36%
Total	1,585	355	2,935	68%

- * All figures in this report have been rounded to the nearest 5; asterisk means figure is less than 5.
- * HE Bursary data is from Students Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS).
- ** Data from FES and HESA.

FE Care-Experienced Students

10. SFC issues national policy for all FE bursaries and reviews data through the college's FE Statistics (FES) Return. This section of the report focusses on the breakdown of the 1,585 care-experienced students in FE who claimed the Bursary in 2018-19, the first year of the FE CE Bursary.

Age, Gender and Ethnicity

11. Table 2 shows the breakdown by age, gender and ethnicity of the CE Bursary FE recipients.

Table 2: Care-Experienced Student Bursary FE recipients by Age, Gender and Ethnicity 2018-19

Age	CESB FE recipients	Gender	CESB FE recipients	Ethnicity	CESB FE recipients
Under 16	20	Male	765	White	1,475
Age 16-17	660	Female	810	BME	100
Age 18-19	560	Other	5	Not known	15
Age 20-24	320	Prefer not to say	10		
25 and over	25				
Total	1,585	Total	1,585	Total	1,585

Subject studied

12. Table 3 has the breakdown by subject area.

Table 3: Care-Experienced Students in College by Programme Group 2018-19

Subject of Study	CESB FE recipients
Care	265
Special Programmes	255
Hospitality and tourism	160
Hairdressing, Beauty and Complementary Therapies	145
Construction	140
Engineering	105
Sport and Leisure	90
Social subjects	80
Land-based industries	65
Computing and ICT	60
Business, management and administration	50
Languages and ESOL	50
Science	35

Art and design	35
Media	20
Education and training	20
Performing arts	15
Nautical studies	5
Total	1,585

Disability

13. Table 4 shows the breakdown by disability type. The comparison is with students not claiming the bursary. The data shows that in 2018-19 CESB students had a higher rate of disability compared to their peers with 36.9% of students declaring a disability compared to 14.6% of non-CESB students declaring a disability, a difference of 22.3 percentage points. CESB students were also more likely to have a disability than other care-experienced students (36.9% compared to 34.6%).

Table 4: Care-Experienced Student in College by Disability 2018-19

Disability	CESB FE recipients	%	Non-CESB students	%
No known disability	1,000	63.1%	279,575	85.4%
Multiple disabilities	180	11.3%	12,510	3.8%
Deaf/have a hearing impairment	5	0.3%	1,270	0.4%
Blind/are partially sighted	0	-	570	0.2%
Dyslexia	180	11.3%	12,130	3.7%
Wheelchair user/have mobility difficulties	10	0.6%	1,945	0.6%
Mental health difficulties	120	7.6%	8,935	2.7%
An unseen disability not listed above (e.g. diabetes, epilepsy, asthma)	15	0.9%	3,080	0.9%
Social/Communication Impairment	70	4.4%	7,290	2.2%
Total	1,585	100%	327,305	100.0%

Domicile

14. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the Scottish Government's official tool for identifying concentrations of deprivation in Scotland. Table 5 shows the breakdown by SIMD decile. The data shows most CESB students live in 10% most deprived areas of Scotland (330 students) and the likelihood of being a CESB recipient decreases steadily in direct correlation to the level of deprivation in their area, i.e. only 3.5% of CESB students come from Scotland's least deprived area (MD 90-100).

Table 5: Care-Experienced Student Bursary recipients by SIMD Decile 2018-19

SIMD Decile	CESB FE Recipients	%
Unknown	5	0.3%
MD 0-10	330	20.8%
MD 0-20	315	19.9%
MD 20-30	235	14.8%
MD 30-40	165	10.4%
MD 40-50	130	8.2%
MD 50-60	130	8.2%
MD 60-70	95	6.0%
MD 70-80	80	5.0%
MD 80-90	55	3.5%
MD 90-100	45	2.8%
Total	1,585	100%

College Successful Completion

15. Table 6 shows the outcomes for CE Bursary recipients studying full-time at FE level in 2017-18 and 2018-19.
16. We have included AY 2017-18 data so it can act as the baseline. It shows that full-time CE students studying at FE level had a successful completion rate of 51.0%, a gap of 15.1 percentage points compared to their peers, non-care-experienced students. That only 51% of CE students successfully completed their course in 2017-18, a little over half, illustrates the intention of the Bursary to help one of the most vulnerable groups of students, those most in need of support.
17. In 2018-19 the successful completion rate for full-time CE students in receipt of the Bursary at FE level was 57.3% with the gap of 8.3 percentage points compared to non-care-experienced students. Furthermore the early withdrawal percentage is lower for Bursary recipients (4.1%) whilst the completed partial success percentage rate (17.6%) is higher compared to their peers.
18. These are positive outcomes with CE students more likely to stay and complete their course. Even though success is partial they have still completed the course which taking into account their widening circumstances could be a positive outcome. The benefits of one year constant education should not be under-estimated, for example gaining confidence, building resilience, boosting self-worth in that expectations have been made of their potential to succeed.
19. The gap between care-experienced students and non-care experienced students is still too large but the gap is reducing and has narrowed considerably compared to the baseline year. Indeed the percentage of completions for CE Bursary recipients (partial success and success) adds up to 74.9%, higher than equivalent for CE students with only 0.6% gap with non-CE students.

20. Overall the 2018-19 data is showing the positive impact of the CE Bursary that the financial incentive seems to provide the added security required for care-experienced students to stay at college.

Table 6: Outcomes for Care-Experienced Student Bursary Recipients studying full-time at FE level in 2017-18 and 2018-19

PI Outcome	2017-18		2018-19		
	CE Students	Non-CE Students	CESB FE Recipients	All CE students (includes CESB recipients)	Non-CE Students
Completed Partial Success	11.8%	8.7%	17.6%	14.1%	9.9%
Completed Successful	51.0%	66.6%	57.3%	58.0%	65.6%
Early Withdrawal	13.7%	8.8%	4.1%	8.2%	8.7%
Further Withdrawal	23.6%	15.9%	20.9%	19.8%	15.8%

HE care-experienced Students

21. The CE Bursary for students undertaking an undergraduate course at higher education (HE) level was introduced in 2017-18, a year before the FE Bursary, so there are now two years of data. This data has been provided by Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) the Executive Agency which awards the HE Bursary.

CE Bursary HE recipients

22. Table 7 shows the number of CE recipients of the HE Bursary in 2017-18 and 2018-19. The data shows that all HEIs have students that receive the Bursary and that those numbers have increased in 2018-19. The table also shows that many CE students who receive the Bursary are not self-disclosing their care-experience at their place of study which explains why some percentages are over 100%, so they are likely to be missing out on the other support available. Institutions should be aware of this.

Table 7: Care-Experienced Student Bursary HE recipients at College and University in 2018-19

	HE Bursary Recipients		Total CE Students	
	2017-18	2018-19	2018-19	% Bursary Recipients
HE Bursary recipients in College sector	235	355	620	76%
Aberdeen, University of	10	20	30	66%
Abertay Dundee, University of	5	15	10	150%
Dundee, University of	20	25	10	250%
Edinburgh Napier University	15	30	65	46%
Edinburgh, University of	10	20	15	133%
Glasgow Caledonian University	25	40	35	114%
Glasgow School of Art	*	5	*	-

Glasgow, University of	25	40	30	133%
Heriot-Watt University	10	15	20	75%
Highlands & Islands, University of the	30	45	50	90%
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	10	20	15	133%
Robert Gordon University	20	30	20	150%
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland	*	*	*	-
Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)	*	10	*	-
St Andrews, University of	5	15	20	75%
Stirling, University of	25	35	65	54%
Strathclyde, University of	45	45	20	225%
West of Scotland, University of the	30	50	60	83%
Total	545	840	505	97%*

* All figures in this report have been rounded to the nearest 5; asterisk means figure is less than 5.

* The 350 HE recipients in College sector can be seen in Table 1.

* No students from the Open University of Scotland claimed the Bursary as these students study part-time. The OU is excluded from the table although their numbers of CE students are included in the 505 figure.

* The 97% HE Bursary recipients do not include college HE students; only those at Scottish HEIs.

Gender and Domicile

23. Table 8 shows the breakdown by gender of the CE Bursary HE recipients and by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation which is the Scottish Government's official tool for identifying concentrations of deprivation in Scotland.

Table 8: Care-Experienced Student Bursary HE Recipients by Gender and Domicile 2017-18 and 2018-19

Gender	HE Bursary Recipients		SIMD Quintile	HE Bursary Recipients	
	2017-18	2018-19		2017-18	2018-19
Male	215	320	MD 0-20	165	265
Female	330	520	MD 20-40	130	180
			MD 40-60	100	150
			MD 60-80	75	125
			MD 80-100	65	105
Total	545	840	Total	535	825

* Total numbers don't match due to those not holding a Scottish postcode details

Retention

24. We are unable to track retention outcomes of CE student bursary recipients studying at HE level as SAAS data is held separately from HESA data. HE students apply directly to SAAS for bursary funding; it is not via their host institution.
25. However, we can track the number and retention rate of all Scottish-domiciled CE undergraduate entrants, which will include Bursary recipients that have disclosed

their care status. Table 9 shows the number and retention rate² of Scottish-domiciled CE entrants in the last 5 years of data.

Table 9: Scottish-domiciled Care-Experienced Entrants at Scottish HEIs 2014-15 to 2018-19

	Number of CE entrants	CE % of all entrants	CE Retention rate (%)	Non-CE Students Retention %	Difference in retention rates (pp)
2014-15	240	0.6%	82.7%	90.5%	-7.8
2015-16	230	0.6%	84.3%	90.6%	-6.3
2016-17	265	0.7%	83.7%	91.0%	-7.3
2017-18	360	0.9%	85.6%	91.6%	-6.0
2018-19	465	0.9%	90.9%	90.4%	+0.5

26. The data illustrates the impact of the CE Bursary for students studying at HE level. In 2017-18, the first year of the Bursary, the retention of Scottish-domiciled CE students rose from 83.7% in 2016-17, to 85.6% in 2017-18, to 90.9% in 2018-19 which is *better* than peers. This is notable and we can surmise the investment has had a direct impact and the results are testament to the value of the Bursary for its recipients.

² Retention: This is the proportion of full-time undergraduate entrants progressing from their first to their second year. This Performance Indicator is accepted as the time when undergraduate students are more likely to drop out during any other point of their studies.