

What is the definition of a care leaver for Student Finance England?

The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 defines a care leaver as a young person who has been in the care of a local authority for at least 13 weeks including at the time of their 16th birthday. The student can also be awarded independent status at any point from the age of 16 up until the start of their course.

Care Leavers will be classed as an independent student when being assessed for student finance, however we will require evidence to support the student status. Evidence can be in the form of:

- A Letter from the Local Authority or a Social Worker confirming the circumstances ('former looked after child' or 'care leaver')
- Additional information: A Residency order and Care order can support your finance application but will not be acceptable evidence if sent as the only evidence.

Please note that students who are awarded Care Leaver status but then subsequently go back to live and reconnect with their parents will revert to being financially dependent on parents. These students will need to complete a Student Finance England PFF2 Form. These can be downloaded [here](#)

Universities and Colleges also provide Care Leaver Support and you can find these advisers usually within the Student Services / Wellbeing or Student Union.

- [The Become Trust](#)
- [Brightside](#)
- [NNECL](#)
- [The Care Leaver Associations](#)
- [Student Finance All Domiciles](#)

You're Social Worker/Adviser will inform you about the support from your Council and possible Benefits support you may be entitled to.