

University of St Andrews

Supporting Unpaid Student Carers Statement

The University of St Andrews wants all students to attain the best academic performance that they can and recognise that being an unpaid carer can present potential barriers to study. The University offers a range of support for our unpaid student carers. Student carers should clearly identify themselves through the UCAS application, within scholarship applications and during their studies if their status changes. This will allow us to provide relevant information and support for these individuals.

We have two dedicated named contacts at the University for student carers. Both [Mike Johnson \(Director of UK/EU Admissions and Access\)](#) and [Pamela Forbes \(Education Liaison Officer\)](#) would be happy to answer any questions student carers may have, and can direct applicants and students to relevant support services within the University.

The University has a wide range of [Widening Participation initiatives](#) for applicants meeting specific criteria, which includes those with caring responsibilities. Our programmes offer support and guidance throughout Primary and Secondary school and help to raise both aspirations and attainment.

When making offers to students who are carers, the Admissions team will look at each application on an individual basis. Admissions officers will also take into consideration any mitigating circumstances affecting students who have been or are carers, as per the contextual admissions policy.

Scholarships are available to both undergraduate and postgraduate students. The scholarship committee will take caring responsibilities into consideration when assessing scholarship applications and applicants should ensure they include any further mitigating circumstances in their application.

The [Sabbatical Officers and Student Representative Council](#) are investigating what measures they can provide in the future for student carers, including looking into what other Student Unions and Associations provide.

The Student Services team support student carers in the following ways:

- Financial health check to ensure that they have access to all entitlements and advice on possible financial assistance from the University. They are a priority group for awards from the Discretionary Fund which provides additional financial assistance.
- Academic support to ensure that they are aware of what their responsibilities and rights are with regards to attendance and assessment. Staff can advise and liaise with academic staff where appropriate.
- Personal support from our counselling and support team.

Advice is available from the [Student Services Advice webpage](#).