

NNECL Care Experienced Flag Decision Tree

Question

Evidence

Are you currently recognised by your Local Authority as a 'care leaver' under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000?

YES



Care Leaver

The student will have (or be able to readily get) a letter from their Local Authority confirming this. The allocation of a 'personal advisor' or receipt of a bursary from the Local Authority would be indicative.

NO

Were you recognised by your Local Authority as a 'care leaver' in the past?

YES



Care -Experienced

This question is relevant to older students who may have 'aged out' of the care leaver status at 21 or 25. They should be able to get a letter from the Local Authority to confirm. (They may find that they can resume their care leaver status.)

NO

Were you adopted from care or left care with a Special Guardianship Order?

YES



Care -Experienced

Most young people who are adopted or whose carers have a special guardianship order spent time in care (or similar arrangements for those adopted from overseas)¹. Parents or carers will be able to provide a copy of the Adoption Order, Special Guardianship Order or similar.

NO

Did you spend time in foster care or a residential home (i.e. a children's home) as a child?

YES



Care -Experienced

Younger students should be able to readily obtain a letter from a social worker, foster carer or residential home manager to confirm this. If not, a letter from another professional (e.g. teacher, doctor or solicitor) might suffice.

NO

Did you spend time in kinship care as a child - i.e. living with other family members because your parents were unable to care for you?

YES



If so, was this formally recognised and supported by your Local Authority? For example, did your carers receive a financial allowance? Did you have a social worker?

YES



Care -Experienced

This is FORMAL kinship care. Students should be able to get a letter from their local authority. If not, a letter from another professional (e.g. teacher, doctor or solicitor) might suffice.

NO



NOT Care -Experienced

This is INFORMAL kinship care. This is not normally considered to be 'care experience', but universities may wish to support these students. An explanatory letter from the family would be required.

NO

Did you enter care at 16 or 17 and were you housed in semi-independent housing? (This might include former homeless or unaccompanied asylum seeking young people.)

YES



Care -Experienced

Younger students should be able to readily obtain a letter from a social worker or other professional in the local authority. If not, a letter from another professional (e.g. teacher, doctor or solicitor) might suffice.

NOT Care -Experienced

Note 1: A small number of adopted people are not adopted from care and therefore should not be regarded as care-experienced. This might apply, for example, where a young person is adopted by a step-parent or sibling.

Note 2: This flowchart is intended to capture the vast majority of instances of care experience, but there are highly-individual circumstances that might not be captured and it may be necessary to seek guidance from a social work professional with respect to determining whether a student is care-experienced or not.