

Information and guidance; university partners

The Foundation

The Unite Foundation is a charitable trust, registered with the Charity Commission in England, Wales and Scotland, which focusses on enabling young people under the age of 25 to make the most of educational opportunity.

Emphasis is placed on supporting young people with academic ability and ambition and for whom access to a secure home is particularly meaningful; students who have previously been in care or are estranged from their parents. We provide scholarships in partnership with Higher Education providers, and work collaboratively with voluntary sector organisations that share our vision and values.

The Foundation itself was established in 2012 by Unite Students, a developer and manager of student accommodation. Unite Students remains the majority donor and makes an annual donation to the Unite Foundation having pledged a total of £8.5 million over the five-year period to 2020.

The Scholarship Scheme

The Unite Foundation Scholarship Scheme is at the heart of the Foundation's work and has supported 250 students to date. Scholars receive free accommodation for three years of their undergraduate study in a single en-suite bedroom in a purpose built Unite Students flat. This award is complemented by access to activities and opportunities that support scholar employability.

Existing Partners

Aston University	London Metropolitan University
Bath Spa University	Manchester Metropolitan University
University of Bristol	Plymouth University
Bournemouth University	University of Portsmouth
Brunel University London	Queen Mary University of London
De Montfort University	University of Reading
University of Edinburgh	Robert Gordon University
Edinburgh Napier University	Sheffield Hallam University
University of Exeter	University of Salford
Glasgow Caledonian University	University of Sheffield
Huddersfield University	University of Strathclyde
King's College London	University College London
Kingston University	University of Westminster
Leeds Beckett University	University of the West of England
Liverpool John Moores University	

How we select university partners

T: +44 (0)117 302 7073

T: +44 (0)117 302 7241

When making new university partnerships, we ask universities to evidence the measures in place within their institution that support care leaver and estranged students; either exclusively or within broader practice. These correlate to the good practice indicators within the Buttle UK Quality Mark.

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- Effective links with relevant public and voluntary sector organisations that support purposeful data sharing, information and tailored outreach/transition activity
- A dedicated member of staff as key point of contact and advice for care leavers and estranged students
- Availability of tailored support including finance, employability, academic skills, health and welfare with the capacity to offer holistic support
- Ability to track and externally report access, progression and attainment for care leaver and estranged student populations
- Engagement with teaching and learning staff in awareness raising and academic support of these populations
- Commitment to engage with Unite Foundation Partnership research and impact measurement activity

Prospective partners must be in reasonable proximity to an appropriate Unite Students building but are advised that success or otherwise in joining the partnership, is in no way dependent upon, or a reflection of, any relationship between the Unite Group and the institution.

Unite Foundation Scholarship Scheme Priorities

- Awarding scholarships across a balance of care leaver and estranged students
- Establishing a presence of Foundation students across all of our university partners
- Creating a representative cross section of students including academic ability and area of study
- Creating a partnership network that reflects the profile of the HE sector as a whole
- The scholarship scheme adding value to existing initiatives, funding or university provision.

For any queries or support please get in touch:

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