Are You a Student Carer?

“A carer is anyone who cares, unpaid, for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support.”

Find out what support is available to help you succeed at Heriot-Watt University
Are you a student carer?

Heriot-Watt University is committed to offering the opportunity for university study to students from a diverse range of backgrounds who have the potential to succeed. We recognise that students with caring responsibilities may face obstacles to university participation and success, and we are committed to supporting student carers from the pre-application stage to graduation and beyond.

Support for Student Carers

- **Applying to University**: Carers are included in our Contextualised Admissions Policy. Student carers wishing to apply to Heriot-Watt University are welcome to discuss this with Pat Reid, Colleges and Wider Access Officer, P.Reid@hw.ac.uk

- **Ask a Student Success Advisor**: Carers who hold an offer from Heriot-Watt can participate in our Ask a Student Success Advisor programme designed to support you and help prepare you for joining University.

- **Summer School** is an exciting opportunity for students to get a head start at university, develop academic skills, and begin to explore the University and its resources. Summer School takes place during the three days prior to Welcome Week and is free to attend. Contact hwusummerschool@hw.ac.uk for more details.

- **Access Bursaries**: Student carers can apply for an Access Bursary which is worth £1,000 a year for each year of study.

- **Helping You Managing Care and Study**: We recognise that caring responsibilities may cause student carers to miss classes, so we will work with you to help manage absences.

- **Reviewing Carer Status**: Caring responsibilities may change over time, so you will have the opportunity to discuss any changes and the support you might need as a result.

- **Networking**: We can help put you in contact with other student carers.

- **Links with External Carers Support Organisations**: The University works closely with the Carers’ Trust and has links with other external partners who support student carers.

- **Listening to You**: We would like to hear from student carers about your experiences while at University and consult with carers in developing our support.

Who to contact

If you would like to speak to someone about applying or would like to arrange a visit to the University, please contact:

Pat Reid, Colleges and Wider Access Officer, P.Reid@hw.ac.uk

If you are an enrolled student with caring responsibilities and would like to access support please contact:

Emma Smail, Student Wellbeing and Transition Advisor, E.Smail@hw.ac.uk

More information on support

If you would like more information on the support Heriot-Watt currently provides for student carers, visit our webpage:

bit.ly/HWUstudentcarers

For more information on the support offered by carer organisations visit the Carers Trust Scotland: carers.org/country/carers-trust-scotland