# University of Leicester Statement of Commitment to Student Carers

The University of Leicester is committed to supporting carers in accessing and succeeding in Higher Education. We acknowledge that caring responsibilities do not when the carer starts university. We recognise and respect our [student carers](https://le.ac.uk/study/student-support/carers) for balancing their caring commitments alongside their studies, and often in addition to working part time.

A carer is anyone who has a commitment to providing unpaid care to a family member or friend who relies on their support. This may be due to illness, disability, a mental health issue, or substance use. A caring responsibility may be short term — such as supporting someone with their recovery following an accident, or long term — such as helping someone with a long term illness (*definition based on the description provided by* [*UCAS*](https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/individual-needs/students-caring-responsibilities))

The University of Leicester has been accredited the national Quality Standard in Carer Support (QSCS) for evidencing the support we have in place for our student carers, and is a member of the Young Carers Alliance Network. We are determined to provide the support our student carers deserve and need in order to thrive at university.

Through our Research-Inspired Education Strategy and Student Wellbeing Strategy, we will provide an inspirational and fulfilling education for all, in an empowering, supportive and exciting learning environment. One of our aims that directly relates to our support for student carers is to create a welcoming, inclusive, and enriching environment where all students can develop a sense of belonging and achieve success.

We are committed to identifying and supporting student carers.

* Students can declare their caring responsibilities from the point of registration and at any time throughout their student journey in order to access available support and information.

We will help student carers succeed during their time with us.

* Once we know a student is a carer, our Welfare Service can discuss their support needs and ensure they can benefit from the available support they are entitled to, including access to our Carers Allowance. The Welfare Service will be available to support student carers throughout their time with us; prospective students are welcome to get in touch with any questions or existing needs before arriving.

We acknowledge the voices and unique experiences of student carers.

* Students have opportunities throughout the year to provide feedback and insight into their university experience, such as through course reps, module feedback, personal tutor meetings and the Student Academic Experience Survey, to name a few.
* We have a Carers and Parents Network for students and staff to provide a forum where those with caring responsibilities can come together and offer each other support. Join the Network by contacting carers\_parents@le.ac.uk.

We recognise the unique challenges and barriers in balancing education with caring responsibilities.

* We will ensure student voice and feedback are built into reviews of our student-facing policies and codes of practice, and be more explicit in how they relate to student carers, where applicable.

For further information on the support available within the University, check our [Student Wellbeing and Support web pages](https://uniofleicester.sharepoint.com/sites/student/SitePages/Student-Support.aspx) and contact the Student Welfare Service (welfare@le.ac.uk) for advice on specific circumstances.

