

Dear Student advisor/Widening access officer

We are writing to you to let you know about the new 12 monthly payment option available to Care Experienced students. The new payment option will be available to all eligible students, in receipt of the higher education Care Experienced Students Bursary (CESB), from the new 2022/2023 Academic Year; which opens for applications in April 2022.

Background

Student support payments are currently paid in monthly instalments during term time only. In 2021, the Scottish Government committed to reviewing the support provided to students during the summer months when student support is not traditionally paid out. From the 2022-23 AY, eligible CESB students can now choose whether to receive their bursary payments over the current term time (which is normally nine months from August/September to April/May) or to spread these payments over the full 12 months. We will keep you updated on the progress of this 2 year programme of work as we will use the feedback to shape any options that might be considered in the future for other students.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the new 12 monthly payment option students must be in receipt of the CESB and be on a course of higher education which takes longer than a year to complete.

Students on a one year course or in their final year will not be eligible to apply for the 12 monthly payments and will be automatically paid during term time.

Students studying elsewhere in the UK will also be able to choose to have their payments spread over 12 months or continue to receive their three payments over term time.

Payments

Whilst the overall amount of bursary will not change, students who choose the 12 monthly option, their monthly payments will be lower than before. This is because their CESB will be spread over 12 months rather than term time only. Which may help students to budget for the year without the gap over the summer. However, they will still receive a maximum CESB of £8,100 each year.

Once selected, students will remain on their chosen payment option for the duration of the academic year. They will have the opportunity to change options (unless entering their final year) when they reapply the following year, should they wish to do so.

The payment option they choose will apply to their CESB and any living costs grants such as Lone Parent Grant or Dependants Grant, in which they are entitled. However, the Care Experienced Accommodation Grant, which is available to help with summer accommodation costs, will continue to be paid as a single payment.

When students apply to SAAS they will be asked to specify their chosen payment option.

Information and guidance

To help support students to choose their preferred payment option:

- SAAS will be hosting interactive online sessions to explain the new payment options and address any questions this raises which can be booked [here](#). These sessions will run from the 23 March to 31 March 2022
- We have produced an on-line video that explains the new 12 monthly payment option which can be accessed at any-time on our [website](#)
- There will be information and guidance on both [SAAS](#) and the [Student Information Scotland websites](#); which will be updated regularly.

If you have any questions about how benefits may be impacted, student advisors can contact CPAG. The CPAG advice line is available if you are an adviser or frontline worker and have a query regarding benefits. The advice line 0141 552 0552 is available Monday – Thursday 10 am – 4 pm and Fridays 10 am - 12 noon. You can also email your enquiries to advice@cpagscotland.org.uk

If students have any questions on how the new 12 monthly payment option would affect their benefits they may also want to seek advice from their local Citizens Advice Bureau.

Students can also contact the Who Cares? Scotland advice line. Which is a lifelong offer, open to Care Experienced people of any age across Scotland. It can provide them with independent support when considering their bursary payment options. Call: 0330 107 7540 from 12-4 pm (Mon-Fri) or email: help@whocarescotland.org

Student can also [Contact Us](#) and one of our advisors will be happy to help if they need assistance with their application.

Yours sincerely

SAAS