



Edinburgh Napier University Bitesize Student Carer Plan

This bitesize version of the Student Carer Plan has been designed to provide a user-friendly highlight of the support on offer at Edinburgh Napier University for individuals with unpaid caring responsibilities.

What does it mean to have an unpaid caring role?

A carer is an individual who provides unpaid supportive care to another person in their home life. Care is typically provided on a regular basis but this may change over time depending on the needs of the cared for person.

At Edinburgh Napier **all carers, irrespective of age can avail of pastoral support, flexible study options and named contact support at any stage: from pre-entry to on-course.** However, only applicants applying with Higher qualifications are eligible to receive a 'minimum', previously known as 'contextual', offer to study subject to terms of the admissions policies.

"A student carer is an individual who gives physical or emotional support, on a regular basis, to someone who could not manage without such support. This could be for a relative, partner or friend who has a long-term physical or mental illness, addiction, disability or is too frail to look after themselves."

See the full-length version of Edinburgh Napier University's Student Carer Plan for further information.

I work as a carer or have young children, do I qualify as a carer?

No, typically not, unless you provide additional unpaid caring responsibilities as described in the previous section. For example, you care for a child, family member or another individual who meets the carer definition set out in the previous section.

Dedicated Named Contact

Starting at university is an exciting time, but it can also be a daunting experience especially for those who have caring responsibilities. At Edinburgh Napier there is a dedicated contact based within the Widening Participation team to help applicants and students throughout their time at the University. Peter (p.tormey@napier.ac.uk), the dedicated contact, is available to answer any questions and to provide support, for example:

- accessing services;
- concerns with course work such as timetabling, assessments or transitioning to university life;
- to provide support with completing funding applications.

Minimum Entry Admissions

Edinburgh Napier University is committed to promoting fair access to higher education as demonstrated by our 'minimum offers' admissions policy with individuals with unpaid caring responsibilities considered eligible to receive an adjusted offer when applying with SQA Higher qualifications from school (Edinburgh Napier University Policy for Contextual Admissions, 2019).

Minimum offer details:

- **2 grades below** our typical standard Higher entry requirements published on our website. E.g. if the published standard entry requirement is ABBB, a minimum (formerly known as 'contextual') offer holder would be required to achieve SQA Higher grades at BBBC (or equivalent). Please note where the entry requirements include a required subject, for example a National 5 Mathematics qualification, this subject must still be achieved at the stated grade.
- For minimum offer holders we will 'double count' SQA Highers and Advanced Highers when calculating a student's achievement.

Passes for the purposes of admission are Higher grade C or Advanced Higher grade D or better. Please visit our webpages for further details:

<https://www.napier.ac.uk/study-with-us/widening-participation/minimum-offers>



What if I declare my unpaid caring role after I have received an offer to study or had an application rejected?

We always advise unpaid carers to declare their caring roles at the earliest time to avail of a minimum offer to study, typically this means on their UCAS application. If an applicant declares their unpaid caring role late in the admissions process, for example a school-leaver applicant declares their unpaid caring role after they receive a standard offer to study or after having an application rejected, then supporting documentation may be requested to support an applicant. A wide range of documents are accepted to support a minimum offer to study including:

- Receipt of receiving the [Department of Work and Pensions Carer's Allowance](#);
- Receipt of receiving the [Scottish Government's Young Carer Grant](#);
- A signed or stamped letter confirming you have accessed or are a member of a dedicated support service such as Edinburgh Young Carers, Broomhouse Centre Young Carers, West Lothian Carers, Fife Young Carers, Local Authority run service or similar;
- Submission of a [Young Carer Statement](#) or [Carer Support Plan](#);
- A letter from a teacher, head teacher, guidance counsellor or an appropriate member of staff from a school or college to confirm unpaid young carer status (which affected attainment and/or attendance).

If unsure about Edinburgh Napier University's minimum offers, or for degree programme specific entry requirements, please contact the dedicated contact (p.tormey@napier.ac.uk).

Financial Support

Edinburgh Napier University offers a range of funding, bursary and scholarship opportunities including discretionary funding. The Student Funding team's information pages provide the most up-to-date information:

<https://my.napier.ac.uk/Wellbeing-and-Support/Money/Pages/Money.aspx>

Keeping in touch ...

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns at all, the dedicated contact is available to help: Peter p.tormey@napier.ac.uk or wideningaccess@napier.ac.uk.

