



Harvard Summer School 2018

Application Information

Background information

Who Cares? Scotland is committed to having high educational aspirations for care experienced young people. This year, Who Cares? Scotland will provide two sponsorships for care experienced young people to attend the Harvard University Summer School. The deadline for applications is **Friday 1 December 2017**.

Harvard Summer School

Harvard is one of the best universities in the world, located in Massachusetts, USA. The Summer School programme will involve spending seven weeks at Harvard, studying two college level academic courses and taking part in cultural and sporting activities. The programme will take place from the **23rd of June to the 11th of August 2018**. Who Cares? Scotland has supported care experienced young people to attend Harvard for the past 7 years. We have developed good personal relationships with the Director of the Harvard University Summer School and his staff. These relationships proved to be valuable in ensuring that our young people were well supported while attending Harvard.

To find out more information please:

- Visit Harvard's Summer School website: www.summer.harvard.edu/Programmes/ssp/
- Read the SpeakOut magazine article at the bottom of this page about Elina & Rashida's experience, who took part in the programme in 2017.
- View a video of two participants speaking about their experience at Harvard [here](https://vimeo.com/238994658) – <https://vimeo.com/238994658>

What will you gain?

- Valuable academic experience studying at one of the most prestigious Universities in the world which will enhance University applications
- Experience of living independently
- Friendships with others from around the world

Eligibility

To apply, the applicant must be:

- 15 years old by 1 December 2017 and will not turn 20 years old before 31 July 2018
- Care experienced, meaning that they have been in either residential care, foster care, kinship care, secure care, or looked after at home.
- Currently attending school or college
- Able to travel to USA unaccompanied

The applicant must also have an in date passport, which expires after the 6th of November 2018.

Applying

We suggest you read all about the Summer School Programme on the university website and this document. Then discuss the programme with a supportive adult to determine if the Summer School is right for you.

The next step is to read the information on the following pages and then complete the application form. Please send your completed application form to harvard@whocarescotland.org (with 'Harvard Summer School' in the subject line) by the **1st of December 2017**.

Application process:

Application part 1-4 This section is to be completed by the applicant.	Application part 5 This section is to be completed by a supporting adult, such as a social worker or throughcare worker.	Application part 6 This section MUST be completed by the supporting agency to confirm the contribution that the supporting agency will make to secure the application for the Harvard University Summer School Programme.
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Personal statement

In part 3 of the application, applicants are required to write a personal statement about why they would like to take part in the programme, and what skills/experience they have that will enable them to thrive on the programme. In particular, we are looking for bright, hardworking young people who:

- will benefit from spending their summer at Harvard University
- will cope well with travelling to the USA and living there independently for 7 weeks
- will be able to share a bedroom with other students
- will work hard and thrive academically
- have good social skills and are keen to get involved in extra curricular activities
- can be an ambassador for Who Cares? Scotland, through writing blogs and speaking publicly about their experience

Selection process

Once the applications have been reviewed by staff at Who Cares? Scotland, successful applicants will be invited to attend a formal interview. The interviews will take place at the start of January. You will be contacted via email about your interview date.

Our offer of support does not guarantee a place on the Harvard Summer School Programme. The applicant needs to be successful when applying directly to the Harvard University Summer School Programme. However, Who Cares? Scotland will provide ample support to the young people during this process.

Costings

Harvard University Fees are approx. £10,000. This includes tuition for two 4-credit courses, leisure activities, accommodation in halls, all meals, Harvard I-20 Visa processing fees and US health insurance. Additionally, there will be further costs for flights to and from Boston, travel insurance, book purchase and

pocket money. Further, there will be costs involved in travel to London or Belfast to obtain a US entry visa. The total cost of the programme per applicant is approx. £12,500.

For the application to be considered by Who Cares? Scotland, the local authority or care provider must agree to contributing £3,500 to the costs of the programme.

No personal financial contribution is required from the applicant.

Contact

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ray MacLean or Rachael McQueen by email: harvard@whocarescotland.org or phone: 0141 226 4441.

Completed applications should be sent to harvard@whocarescotland.org by the **1st of December 2017.**



NEWS & EVENTS

BOSTON

Harvard Summer School Graduates

Harvard University is the oldest University in America and is regarded as one of the most prestigious in the world. It has educated famous figures such as Bill Gates and Michelle and Barack Obama. Now Rashida and Elina, who SpeakOut previously interviewed, can count themselves as summer school graduates from Harvard after spending seven weeks studying there.

Rashida and Elina became aware of the opportunity of a lifetime through their social workers, who encouraged them to apply to the Who Cares? Scotland Harvard Summer School scholarship. As part of the application process, the girls had to write a personal statement about why they would like to study at Harvard and how they would make the most out of the opportunity. Then they had to impress the Who Cares? Scotland interviewers, and satisfy the Harvard selectors. Rashida said she would encourage other care experienced young people who have high educational ambitions to apply for the scholarship.

After an emotional goodbye at the airport with their foster families, Elina and Rashida were on their way to Boston! At Harvard, they shared dorms with other students, and made

friends from all over the world. Elina stated that "it was amazing to share stories with people from very different backgrounds and origins, learning about different ways of life". Both have exciting holiday opportunities awaiting them in the future!

At Harvard, students are expected to live independently, take responsibility for attending classes and handing in coursework on time. Both girls were surprised by the workload and pace of their classes, with up to three essays due each week. However, they both managed to pass with flying colours and Rashida said that the "blood, sweat and tears were all worth it in the end".

Alongside their studies, the girls managed to get out and about and explore Boston. Elina went on a whale watching trip and managed to see 5 whales. They also experienced the 4th of July American style, Rashida noted that "Hogmanay has nothing on the 4th of July... Sorry Scotland!".

Both Rashida and Elina felt that they learned a lot about themselves. They felt that the experience had given them more confidence and belief that they can make friends from a variety of backgrounds, and live independently.

Back home in Scotland, Elina and Rashida both have bright futures ahead

of them. Elina is heading to Glasgow School of Art to study Architecture and Rashida is going to the University of Glasgow to study English and French. Both are keen to break down the stigma of low expectations of children in care and believe that care experienced young people can achieve as much as anyone else.

If you are care experienced, not currently at University, between the age of 16-21 and like the sound of spending your summer at Harvard University, keep an eye out on the applications launching in November.

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