



Harvard Summer School & Who Cares? Scotland

Who Cares? Scotland is committed to supporting Care Experienced people's educational aspirations. To help achieve this aim, we're offering two scholarships to members aged 16-18 to attend **Harvard Summer School, Secondary School Program**.

We believe all people should be able to achieve their educational goals regardless of the barriers they may face. Care Experienced people can encounter systematic challenges, including the tides of poverty and frequent placement moves between schools.

We want to offset these difficulties by providing a Care Experienced person with a first-rate educational opportunity at a world-renowned university.

The Program runs from **Saturday 17 June to Saturday 5 August 2023** and takes place on the Harvard campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA just north of Boston. Participants in the Summer School Program spend seven weeks at Harvard, studying two university level academic courses and taking part in campus life.

Who Cares? Scotland has been involved in the Harvard Summer School Program for more than ten years and in that time we have developed personal relationships with the Director of the Harvard University Summer School and his staff. These relationships are invaluable in ensuring that our young people are well supported while attending Harvard.

This is a fully immersive, seven-week university experience with rigorous academic requirements. To find out more about the program and the courses available, check out the links below:

- www.whocaresscotland.org/event/harvard
- www.summer.harvard.edu/high-school-programs/secondary-school-program
- www.summer.harvard.edu/high-school-programs/secondary-school-program/courses-subjects

Can I apply to attend Harvard Summer School?

You are eligible to apply if you are:

- Currently attending school or college and plan to go on to further education.
- Aged 16-18: This age restriction is set by Harvard University, not Who Cares? Scotland. Applicants must be at least 16 years old by 17th June 2023 and will not turn 19 years old before 31st July 2023.
- Willing to be an ambassador for Who Cares? Scotland, through writing and speaking publicly about your experience.
- In possession of a valid, in-date passport and able to travel to the USA unaccompanied.
- Have lived experience of the care system. This could include foster care; secure care; kinship care; living at home and has a social worker; living in a residential unit or school; living with adoptive parents.
- A Who Cares? Scotland Family Member. If you are not already a member, sign up here: <https://www.whocaresscotland.org/members-hub/become-a-member/>

What will I gain?

- Valuable academic experience studying at a world-class university.
- Confidence to live and travel independently and build friendships with people from all over the world.
- The chance to share your experiences and inspire positive change for Care Experienced people.

What will Harvard Summer School be like?

Harvard University is the oldest educational institution in the United States. Summer School students come to study from all over the world. You will spend seven weeks living, dining, studying, and socialising. You will share a room with another Summer School student and three meals a day are provided in the Harvard dining halls. You will be taking two, four-credit university level courses which will be challenging. The need to study, take exams and attend classes will be a priority. You will also have opportunities to take part in social and sporting activities, explore Cambridge and Boston and perhaps even travel further afield. Hear what Harvard summer students have to say in this [video](#) and check out the Speak Out article we've included at the end that tells you a bit about Andi and Lauren's experiences in 2019.

How can I apply?

We suggest that you read this document carefully, learn more about the [Secondary School Program](#) on the Harvard University website, then discuss the program with a supportive adult to determine if the Secondary School Program is the right opportunity for you.

If you would like to apply, please email harvard@whocaresscotland.org and we will send you the application form. You must send the completed application form, a copy of the photo page of your passport and a copy of your academic transcripts by REPLYING to the email we sent you. This will allow us to keep your data secure.

We will be holding online information sessions on Wednesday 14th December at 6pm and Wednesday 11th January at 6pm. If you would like to attend, please email us and we will send you a link.

The deadline for applications is Friday 13th January 2023

Interviews will be held on Saturday 28th January 2023

Application

- Sections 1-5:** To be completed by the applicant. If the applicant is currently under 16, they will also need consent from a parent/legal guardian.
- Section 6:** To be completed by a supporting adult, such as a social worker or throughcare worker.
- Section 7:** This section must be completed by the supporting agency to confirm the financial contribution that the supporting agency will make to secure the application for the Harvard University Summer School Program.

Section 1: Contact details and personal information

Section 2: Qualifications

Please list all academic qualifications already achieved and subjects/levels you are currently studying. We also require a copy of your academic transcripts. If you need copies of your SQA Certificates, you can request them [here](#). This is free of charge for Care Experienced people aged 26 and under.

Section 3: Personal statement

You will need to write a personal statement about why you would like to take part in the Program, how you will benefit from it and what skills and qualities you have that will enable you to thrive in this environment. We are looking for bright, engaged young people who:

- will work hard academically
- will thrive in a university environment
- will cope well with travelling and living independently for 7 weeks
- have good social skills and are keen to get involved in the opportunities on offer
- are willing to share their experiences through public speaking and social media

Section 4: Short Essay Questions

You will need to answer a number of short essay questions.

Section 5: Consent & Signature

Selection process

Once the applications have been reviewed by staff at Who Cares? Scotland, successful applicants will be invited to attend an interview. The interviews will take place on Saturday 28th January in the National Office in Glasgow. All applicants will be contacted by Friday 20th January to let them know whether they have been selected for an interview.

Our offer of support does not guarantee a place on the Harvard Summer School Program. Following the interviews, two candidates will be selected by Who Cares? Scotland. They will then need to apply directly to the Secondary School Program through an online application on the Harvard University Website no later than Wednesday 22nd February. Who Cares? Scotland will provide ample support to complete this process.

Will I have to pay any money towards my place?

- **No personal financial contribution is required from the applicant.**
- Total cost of the program per applicant is approximately £13,500.
- For the application to be considered by Who Cares? Scotland, the local authority or care provider must agree to contribute £4,500 to the costs of the Program. Who Cares? Scotland will fund the remaining costs.
- The cost of the Program includes: university tuition fees; all meals and accommodation in halls; F-1 Student Visa fees and Harvard visa processing fees; travel to Belfast to obtain F-1 Student Visa; US health insurance and travel insurance; return flights to Boston; book purchase for courses; immunisations*; and spending money.

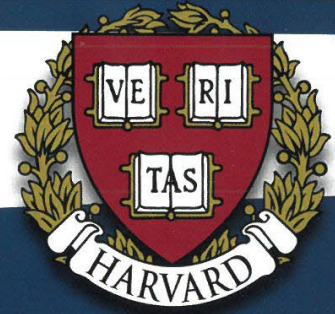
**Harvard University requires all students to provide proof of immunisations/immunity to MMR, Varicella (Chicken Pox), Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis, Hepatitis B and Meningitis. COVID vaccinations are also mandatory. You can read more about the University's COVID policies [here](#).*

Any other questions?

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Who Cares? Scotland team by email: harvard@whocaresscotland.org or phone: 0141 226 4441.

Send your completed application, along with a copy of the photo page of your passport and a copy of your academic transcripts to harvard@whocaresscotland.org with 'Harvard Summer School 2023' in the subject line no later than Friday 13th January 2023. Please ensure you REPLY to the email we send you so we can keep your data secure.

Harvard 2019



A year ago, if you had told Andi and Lauren that they would be spending 7 weeks attending the prestigious Harvard University Summer School Programme, I don't think they would have believed it. Not only did they attend the Summer School, they absolutely smashed it, achieving full credits for two university level classes while living independently, making new friends from all over the world, exploring Cambridge, Boston and even New York and returning home in one piece, with experiences and memories that will last a lifetime.

Lauren

"Summer of 2019 has been the best and I don't think anything will top it. Coming away with friends from all over the world, all 8 credits achieved in my studies and a greater understanding of how to live independently. What more could I possibly have taken away from this experience?"

After studying at Harvard, when I arrived home, I spoke to my parents about changing my subject choice for university, expressing that I would like to progress onto psychology at university.

Being away this summer helped me to grow so much more confident in terms of how I carry myself and speak to others. I came away with a strong idea of what I want for my future and how I plan to get there. I can't thank anyone else other than the SQA and the amazing team at Who Cares? Scotland, as well as my parents for granting me such a life changing gift."

Andi

"If you're enrolled at Harvard, you don't need to worry about food. They basically have the Great Hall from Harry Potter called the Annenberg Hall that serves just about anything you could ever want to eat. And yes – that includes the famous Harvard crested waffles!"

But it wasn't all fun and waffles. Andi told us it was harder than she expected, especially Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, and admitted to feeling overwhelmed at times. She shared some of her top tips for coping with the rigorous academic demands:

"Peer support is essential for survival at Harvard. All of your teachers will recommend you interact with your peers."

"Have a self-care routine or do one

thing that you like just once a week and it can make all the difference for your mental health. And remember grades aren't everything."

"The thing is, the classes are hard and you're going to get homesick at some point but I've had an amazing experience at Harvard. I've made so many new friends and done so many things I never thought I would ever do. That's a really important part of an opportunity like this is that it is an experience. It's not strictly based on if you get straight As – it's what you take from it."

This experience was both more challenging and more rewarding than either one of them could ever have imagined. Applications for Summer 2020 will open soon so keep your eyes open!

