

WEE CAMPUS



The Why Not? Trust



20
25

ANNUAL REPORT

Looking back on a second successful year
of the Wee Campus community for
care-experienced students in Scotland



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What is Wee Campus?



Wee Campus is a digital community for care-experienced students in furthering or higher education across Scotland.

As members of the community, students are able to meet other care-experienced students through the WhatsApp chat and Facebook group, so they can ask questions, get advice, and encourage each other throughout their education journey. Unlike most campus support programmes for care-experienced students, in Wee Campus our focus is not solely on academic success, but on **friendships and social networks**. We know that when care-experienced students go to university, they can feel isolated and have even more trouble building their social network than their non-care-experienced peers. **This ultimately negatively impacts on their education and overall experience.**¹ Lack of social support in college and university has been found to increase the likelihood of students dropping out or not being able to complete their course.

Over 80 students currently make up the Wee Campus community.

Across the WhatsApp and Facebook groups, anywhere from **30 to 50** students are active during any given month. Last year, students primarily used the community to:

- Ask questions about courses, with those who had taken those courses giving advice
- Encourage each other through exams
- Share tips on how to improve on specific issues (ex. public speaking, organisation)
- Share personal struggles and get support
- Ask about funding, course, or job applications
- Navigate crises, such as housing issues
- Get advice around transitions, from college to university or to work
- Vent frustrations with systems and processes
- Ask how to get support needs met at institution
- Share their successes
- Engage in general chat

2025 in Review

¹) See last year's [annual report](#) for more information and references, or our [scoping review on the importance of friendships](#).

Our Impact

Over the year, there have been a range of **positive examples** of Wee Campus's impact on students. These impacts have spanned across education, employment, and personal wellbeing. Both the community and team members have supported students to overcome barriers within their education journey.

1:1 (team member) support

- ★ A student was facing a difficult situation at their college and felt they would need to drop out due to the stress. A team member was able to get them in contact with the appropriate support teams at their college.
- ★ A student was unable to get assistance from their uni team as their course had not yet started. They were in serious and immediate need, so a team member was able to connect them with support teams and organisations.
- ★ One student was having issues with their learning plan not being acknowledged by their lecturer. A team member was able to intervene and get them the appropriate on-campus support.
- ★ There were multiple instances of students facing financial hardship, sometimes being unable to access food, particularly during points of transition (between universities or local authorities), in which the team was able to get the student crisis support.
- ★ **15** students were able to attend Edinburgh Fringe shows for free.

peer support

- ★ A student received support from members of the group who chatted through the student's worries. This, combined with support from the team member, contributed to the student completing their course and celebrating their graduation with the group.
- ★ Several students throughout the year faced close relationship losses or serious health issues, and were able to receive emotional support within the group.
- ★ At one point a couple students were considering ending their studies to look for jobs instead, but after talking it through with other students in the chat they continued their studies.
- ★ A student near graduation asked for help with updating their CV, and several others offered advice, resources, and one offered to review the CV.
- ★ Students checked-in with each other after storms and offered advice on repairs.
- ★ Students discussed neurodivergence and mental health, offering emotional support and tips for coping.
- ★ Members gave each other living skills tips, from cooking and DIY to organisation and planning.

Student Feedback

My favourite thing about Wee Campus - most of us haven't met but we can all chat and just be us.

I am so excited to be part of this group!

I love the fact that I'm apart of this group chat with random people I don't know and I can talk and be "normal" as I don't have any friends. Usually it's just me so no one asks how I am or I just deal with things.

The holiday card you sent really put a smile on my face this morning before class started!

I received the [kindness pack] today. It means a lot to me right now, especially being in study mode and juggling parenthood. This just made me so happy and emotional.

“I LIKE WEE CAMPUS BECAUSE IT IS A CLOSE-KNIT SPACE TO ASK QUESTIONS AND ENGAGE IN CONVERSATION. IT’S A UNIQUE SPACE ALLOWING CARE-EXPERIENCED STUDENTS FROM ACROSS SCOTLAND TO MEET WHO PROBABLY WOULD HAVE NEVER MET.”

- WEE CAMPUS STUDENT



Get in Touch

Wee Campus is always welcoming opportunities to connect with more care-experienced students and grow their support network. The Wee Campus team attends events in the community and in colleges and universities where students can find out more about joining the community.

If you know a student who would benefit from being part of our inclusive community, direct them to the sign-up form so they can be added to the private groups and start connecting with other students.

We also love to hear from organisations or academic institutions that would like Wee Campus to be part of the support they are already offering to care-experienced students.

Student Sign-Up Form:



**Wee Campus
The Why Not? Trust**

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