

# Jade's story

Jade had worked hard to get to Cardiff University. Her foster carers lived in Bangor and had other foster children to look after; they weren't able to make the trip to help her settle in. They didn't go to university themselves and didn't know how things ticked.

She didn't want anyone to know that she was in care so she didn't tick the care leaver's box on the UCAS application form. Jade moved into University Residence but felt she was much older than the other students because of her life experiences before coming to university. This made it difficult to make friends. Jade felt alone and isolated during the first few weeks of university.

Jade was also experiencing identity issues. Her mother, who she hadn't seen since she was ten, had just made contact via Facebook. Her social worker had moved on and it was hard for Jade to contact Social Services in Bangor.

When making her university application, Jade's social worker didn't have a full knowledge of the financial side of things and as a result she missed important deadlines to apply for grants. It was hard for Jade in this first term to learn about budgeting and all her money seemed to have been spent. She took on bar work which conflicted with academic demands and was late handing in assignments. She was often tired.

Christmas was looming, and the festive season was always a difficult time for Jade. She was unable to return to her foster carers as they were already looking after new child placements. She was close to dropping out.

## Questions

- **If Jade confided in you – what would be your response?**
- **What is already in place in your faculty/place of work?**

**Source: The Fostering Network Wales.**