

Leon got a criminal record at 18 for shoplifting. They are now 25. They would like to become a teacher, but have avoided applying for years because they assumed they wouldn't be able to with a criminal record. In fact, the University in question wouldn't consider this kind of criminal record to pose a barrier to a teaching degree. However, the University provides no information about how a criminal record might be treated on application. Leon gets in touch with Unlock to share their concerns and seek advice

Chun served two months in prison 4 years ago for non-payment of a TV licence fine. She struggled significantly with debt for 10 years, but is now in control of her finances and her life is much more stable. She wants to study journalism, but can't find any information regarding whether she will need to disclose her time in prison to the University she's chosen. There is an admissions email address she could contact, but there's no mention of who answers this inbox- asking an unnamed stranger to provide a criminal record policy feels exposing. Chun is worried that she'll not be taken seriously as a prospective journalist if the course leaders know about her history.

Harry previously had a negative relationship with drugs, and has a series of convictions for theft and supply from this time in his life. He has been working at a youth boxing project for several years; he is passionate about helping others navigate the challenges he faced in youth. He would like to study for a sports degree to be an even more effective support worker. However, he can't find any information about how his criminal record might affect his application or his access to placements. Harry feels stuck and alone.