



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

10 December 2018

University of Cambridge and the Stand Alone Pledge

Dear Stand Alone

The University of Cambridge understands that students studying without the support of their family may experience additional challenges. We are committed to helping estranged students meet their full potential at Cambridge by providing a comprehensive package of support.

A dedicated member of staff in the Cambridge Admissions Office will act as a central contact for prospective estranged students. They will act on guidance from Stand Alone, share best practice throughout the Collegiate University and provide bespoke online information to set out the support available for estranged students.

The Cambridge collegiate system provides a supportive framework for students. Students are allocated a personal tutor who can provide pastoral guidance and direct students to further sources of support where required. This might include peer support networks, our free counselling service, or financial support. This personalised approach means that the pastoral and academic welfare of students is monitored closely, and any challenges can be identified quickly. The Senior Tutor in each College acts as a further point of contact for estranged students should they need further support.

Students who are classed as independent by the Student Loans Company can be eligible for an enhanced bursary for each year of their course. In addition, Colleges operate their own hardship funds to which estranged students experiencing financial difficulty will be encouraged to apply.

College-owned accommodation is guaranteed for most undergraduate students studying at Cambridge for the duration of their course, and estranged students are able to access year-round accommodation as required. Any student who takes a break from their studies can access guidance via the University Accommodation Service.

Over the next year we will conduct a comprehensive audit of our support for estranged students and make improvements where required. We will also aim to raise awareness among staff and students at Cambridge of estranged students, the barriers they face and the support available to them.

Kind Regards,

Professor Graham Virgo, Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)
Dr David Holburn, Associate Secretary to the Senior Tutors' Committee