

Stand Alone
34b York Way
London
N1 9AB

6 February 2017

Dear Sir / Madam

De Montfort University (DMU) is proud to be a signatory to the Stand Alone Pledge. Our university is committed to ensuring that all of our students are able to access and succeed in their ambitions, regardless of their individual circumstances.

We understand that estranged students often experience additional challenges with their finances, accommodation and mental health in comparison to their peers. In response, we have developed a package of tailored support to ensure students can succeed in their studies and achieve their ambitions.

DMU's Transitions team is the designated contact for supporting estranged students and will oversee the delivery of the Stand Alone Pledge. The team has considerable experience working in this field, offering appropriate and timely support. Our university has developed the following package of support for students who are estranged from their parents:

Finance

- A bursary of £1,000 per year for all undergraduate estranged students
- A summer award, usually of around £1,000, for rent and living costs
- A graduation award to help with the costs of moving on from university
- A bursary to help with living costs while their application for funding is being assessed
- Estranged students are also a target group for one of the five Unite Foundation Scholarships, a scholarships delivered in partnership with the Unite Foundation. The Unite Foundation provides free student accommodation and an annual scholarship to students facing some of the most challenging circumstances

Accommodation

- 365-day tenancies for all DMU-run accommodation
- Waiving of booking fees for all DMU-run accommodation
- Kitchen and bedding packs

Mental health and wellbeing

- Support for students with their applications for student funding to alleviate the stress of moving to university; this can also include providing additional financial support during student funding assessments
- Peer support groups, hosted by the Mental Health Inclusion team
- A single point of contact for all estranged students wanting to discuss their circumstances and adjustment to higher education

Professor Dominic Shellard MA DPHIL
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive

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Outreach and transition

- Use of data from the Student Loans Company to help identify students
- Communication of support provided via web pages, email, open days and pre-entry activities.

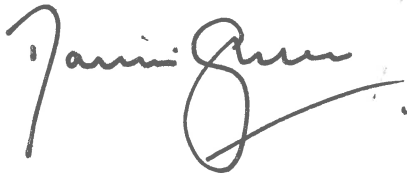
Through the Stand Alone Pledge, we aim to improve our outreach activities targeted at estranged students over the next two years by:

- fostering new relationships with local charities, foyers and homeless shelters;
- providing training and support for marketing and recruitment colleagues who visit regional schools and colleges; and
- improving the promotional materials used to communicate our support package.

We are proud to have this relationship with Stand Alone and look forward to continuing to develop our support for our estranged students in the future.

DMU's Transitions team can be contacted on transitions@dmu.ac.uk, or +44 (0)116 257 7595.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dominic Shellard', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Professor Dominic Shellard
Vice-Chancellor