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Stand Alone Pledge
34B York Way
London
N1 9AB

Professor Alistair Sambell
BSc(Hons), DPhil, CEng, FIET, MIEEE,
FHEA
Senior Vice-Principal and
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Edinburgh Napier University
Sighthill Campus
Sighthill Court
Edinburgh
EH11 4BN

T +44 (0)131 455 5035/6557
F +44 (0)131 455 6444
E a.sambell@napier.ac.uk

Dear Stand Alone

Edinburgh Napier University's Pledge for Estranged Students

Edinburgh Napier University is proud to state our continued support for our students who study without the support of parents or family, and we are delighted to formally announce our ongoing commitment by signing the Stand Alone Pledge. The University is firmly rooted to the principle of promoting fair access to higher education to under-represented groups based on ones potential to succeed looking passed the additional barrier they may have to overcome.

Widening participation to higher education is a central aspect of Edinburgh Napier University's identity and we work closely with regional schools, adult education programmes and colleges from across Scotland to offer routes into university study. We work collaboratively at a regional and national level on widening access initiatives, leading on many projects for example the Hub for SUCCESS which promotes tertiary educational opportunities for care-experienced individuals of all ages.

Edinburgh Napier University is rooted in the communities where we are based and we continue to strive to create a more diverse, representative student body, including young people who experience family breakdown and estrangement.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

We understand the additional barriers estranged students face and must overcome to access, and succeed, in higher education. We celebrate the great successes of our students and recognise the additional endeavour, hard-work and commitment required for estranged learners to fulfil their academic potential. By signing this Pledge Edinburgh Napier University will continue to create a more welcoming, understanding and equitable environment for our students studying without familial support to fully participate in our university community.

To support greater participation the University is pleased to share our pledges to support estranged students, including;

- Access to 52-week University student accommodation, including out-of-hours access to Residence Assistants;
- Support with issues related to providing a guarantor to secure University student accommodation;
- Support with queries concerning private rented tenancies through the independent students' union service ENSA Advice;
- Providing guidance on bursaries and financial support, and where requested by liaising with external student funding bodies ;
- Access to mental health, counselling, academic and signposting to other student services through our Student Wellbeing and Inclusion department;
- Providing the opportunity for students to declare their estrangement confidentially at enrolment or at any point during their studies;
- Offering community outreach initiatives such as campus visits.

We commend Stand Alone for their ongoing work supporting estranged students and by signing this Pledge we aim to ensure that every student studying at Edinburgh Napier University never feels like they stand alone, and have access to the timely support they require to reach their academic potential.

Yours faithfully



Professor Alistair Sambell
Senior Vice Principal & Deputy Vice Chancellor