



Stand Alone
34B York Way
London
N1 9AB

23 May 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

The University of Essex's commitment to the Stand Alone Pledge to support estranged students

At Essex we are committed to ensuring that all students with the potential to succeed can access and succeed in their education irrespective of their background and personal circumstances. We are committed to supporting all our students, including those who may be estranged from their family and who are studying without the support or approval of a family network.

We understand that there are many complex reasons a student may be estranged and that no two estranged students' circumstances are the same. We appreciate that estranged students may face a range of challenges and have additional needs in relation to financial and pastoral support. The University and the Students' Union are committed to working together to provide the following support:

- Dedicated webpages for estranged students providing University information and sources of specialist advice and guidance and signposting external support organisations through useful links and contact information.
- Advice and guidance about applying as an independent student to Student Finance England.
- A named advisor in the Student Services team to act as a first point of contact and to provide advice and guidance throughout their time at the University.
- Although awards are not guaranteed, estranged students are considered a priority group for the University of Essex Hardship Fund if they find they are struggling financially during their course.
- When applying to the University, in addition to benefitting from the same accommodation guarantees as all other first-year undergraduate students, care leavers and estranged students' needs are assessed so that they can be supported on the basis of their individual needs. If they need longer lets in University owned or administered accommodation for example, they will be offered a 50-week rather than the standard 39-week contract duration length. They may also be able to apply to stay in University owned or administered accommodation for their returning years of study and, again, decisions will be made on the basis of individual needs.

