



UNIVERSITY  
OF HULL

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Office of the Vice-Chancellor

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Stand Alone  
34B York Way  
London N1 9AB

To whom it may concern

I am writing this letter to pledge the commitment of the University of Hull to the Stand Alone Pledge.

As a University we are committed to providing support to all our students and recognise the differing needs and challenges that they face. We picture a dual, yet interconnected, journey of study and life recognising that sometimes specific circumstances can have a profound effect on a person's ability to manage and thrive. This is particularly true in the case of estranged students who may not have supportive networks beyond the Institution. They are therefore potentially more vulnerable to isolation, low self-esteem, positive affirmation and financial stability.

Through the development of our *Humber Grant* we have introduced a £1000 bursary for each year of study to help estranged students, and alleviate some of that financial stress. This is in addition to our hardship and summer funds which are open to all students to apply.

The *Humber Grant* is promoted through our promotional literature and website and at all our Open and Applicant Days so that potential students are aware of the additional support that is available to them. The information also highlights the emotional wellbeing support that is available through our wellbeing team who provide a daily, accessible duty adviser service to all students.

A nominated Student Engagement Officer, trained to have specific awareness of the support needs for Carers, Care Leavers and Estranged Students, has specific responsibility for identifying resources and is currently developing an E-Guide to promote the support that is available to students within these groups.

The financial support team receive and welcomes ongoing feedback on the support they provide and will reflect this in their annual review of policies and procedures. In particular, this will focus on refining the promotion of the Humber Grant and application process to ensure that students who would benefit from the support are aware of it, and find the process simple, accessible, and rapid.

A copy of our Humber Grant leaflet is enclosed for your information and interest.

We continually review our provision and over the next two years we will be developing a new mental health strategy which will focus on all aspects of emotional wellbeing and mental health support provided both internally and in partnership with external agencies such as the NHS Depression and Anxiety Service and NHS Humber Recovery College. The support we provide to specific groups such as Estranged students will feature within this strategy.

In summary, the University of Hull is firmly committed to supporting estranged students, and is proud of its strong emphasis on diversity, equality and inclusion.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. J. Lea', written in a cursive style.

**Professor Susan J Lea**  
Vice-Chancellor