

Ms Susan Mueller
Stand Alone
34B York Way
London
N1 9AB

16th August 2022

Dear Susan Mueller,

The Stand Alone Pledge: Supporting Estranged Students

We are writing this letter as a commitment from St George's University of London to the Stand Alone Pledge. At St George's we are committed to providing an inclusive education and opportunities for all students. We understand that studying without the support of family members can increase the barriers to accessing and succeeding in higher education. Therefore, our provision of support for estranged students aims to alleviate some of the challenges they may face. This includes:

Outreach and transition

- We offer flexible and personalised campus visits for prospective estranged students.
- Estranged students are a priority target group for widening participation activities.
- We have a contextual admissions scheme which is designed to support eligible students, including those who are estranged, to enter the university. It offers an alternative grade offer as well as access to pre-application and post-application support.
- Prior to enrolment there is an opportunity to speak to a current student about any concerns students may have.

Finance

- Estranged students who are undertaking their first undergraduate course are automatically eligible for a £1,000 grant.
- Estranged students are a priority group for our Access to Learning Fund (hardship fund for home students) and may be eligible for additional financial support here.
- Additional financial support may be available through the University of London Scholars Programme.

Accommodation

- Estranged students studying an undergraduate course are given priority for housing in the St George's Horton Halls of Residence and are eligible for year-round 365-day accommodation contracts if required.
- Estranged students who become homeless are prioritised for emergency accommodation.



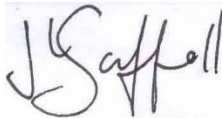
Mental health and student support

- Estranged students have a named contact at St George's who can support with coordinating financial and pastoral support. Our named contact is the Student Accommodation & Welfare Adviser.
- The University's Counselling Service provides a non-judgemental, confidential setting in which to work things through in your own way. It is free of charge and available to all St George's undergraduate and postgraduate students.
- All students are assigned a personal tutor who can provide academic advice and support.

We hope that this letter effectively demonstrates our commitment to supporting estranged students across the student lifecycle. We will continue to develop our support in partnership with staff and students across the university and will proactively seek student feedback on the support mechanisms we have in place.

If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Saffell', is placed over a light blue rectangular background.

Professor Jane Saffell
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)

