

Dear Stand Alone

The University of Salford is proud to publicly pledge its support for students who are estranged from their families and who are studying at university without the support of a family network. By supporting the Stand Alone pledge in this public manner we hope to encourage a sector wide positive change and help to embed support for these students, not just at the University of Salford, but at all Universities. We know this can be achieved in this way by the difference that Buttle UK made with care leavers in a similar manner.

The resilience that these students have already shown merely by making it this far is incredible and we would like to ensure that we are helping and encouraging estranged students at university by supporting them to succeed to the best of their ability. We recognise that, at present, estranged students are three times more likely to drop out due to lack of support. Equally we would like to encourage those estranged students that may be less resilient or confident, but still with the ability to study at university, to achieve that goal by extending our outreach work to address estrangement.

The University of Salford has already begun the work in supporting estranged students by:

1. Providing a single point of contact
2. Developing webpages for estranged students with useful links and contact information
3. Prioritising hardship funding via our Salford Support Fund.
4. Providing advice and support around funding (including liaison with the Student Loan Company).
5. Signposting to external organisations and internal teams for specific pastoral support
6. Providing support regarding accommodation that is flexible to the needs of the student; priority to those who have been homeless before starting university; and deferment of deposits until after first loan payments

By signing this pledge we agree to work across the university to develop a two year action plan to further develop the above support and to ensure that it remains exemplary and relevant to the needs of estranged students. We will do this by encouraging estranged students to be critical partners in the development of the action plan. We look forward to sharing this plan with you.

To start this process off I will be meeting with a group of estranged students personally in the next month to fully understand the barriers and support that they may need.

Yours faithfully



Dr Sam Grogan  
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience)  
University of Salford

