

StandAlone
34B York Way
London N1 9AB

26 April 2019

Dear Ms Mueller

Re: The StandAlone Pledge for Estranged Students at the University of Sussex

We are writing this letter as a commitment from the University of Sussex to the StandAlone pledge demonstrating our support for students who are estranged and studying without the support of their family.

In recognition of the additional needs and difficulties these students may face we have established a support package to enable estranged students to succeed, not only on access to the University of Sussex, but also throughout the entire student lifecycle.

Our support package includes:

- A dedicated Widening Participation Officer who provides bespoke guidance for estranged students who are considering applying to university.
- Contextualised admissions offering special consideration on application to the university
- A dedicated Student Life Advisor who is the first point of contact providing expert advice and guidance for estranged students studying at the university
- An estranged Student Bursary specifically for students who have also been assessed by Student Finance as estranged. In addition to our First-Generation Scholars Scheme: <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/fees-funding/undergraduate-scholarships/view/1038-First-Generation-Scholars-Scheme-for-Students-Starting-in-2019> estranged students will also receive an additional £1,000 per year of study, paid in two instalments - £500 in November and £500 in March: <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/fees-funding/undergraduate-scholarships/view/1039-Estranged-Student-Award>
- Prioritisation of 52 weeks per year accommodation, at the current rate, for estranged students
- Eligibility to apply for the University rent guarantor scheme: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/internal/housing/rent-guarantor>

We recognise that identifying estranged students is complex and intend to raise awareness across the university. This includes:

- Awareness raising and training opportunities for personal tutors and academic staff
- Clearer disclosure and referral process for staff and students looking for support

We look forward to working with StandAlone in our commitment to supporting this group of students to, through and from the University of Sussex.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Coate". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Professor Kelly Coate PFHEA
Pro Vice-Chancellor for Education and Students