



Dear StandAlone

I am writing to you to pledge support to estranged students studying at Swansea University.

Swansea University has an outstanding record of widening access and community engagement for over 30 years. Recruiting, retaining and supporting students to achieve their potential regardless of their social, cultural or financial circumstances remains central to the University's mission. Swansea University has a well-established reputation for supporting students leaving care and has continued to build upon this support package, most recently to include support for those wishing to study at postgraduate level.

We are now in the process of highlighting other key student groups who require additional consideration and support. This will ensure that all students have access to the tailored support required to overcome any barriers they may experience when accessing higher education. Support for estranged students is central to this, and I am delighted to commit to the StandAlone pledge, and provide the following support provision for estranged students studying at Swansea University.

Finance:

- Estranged students have been established as a group who require priority access to the Swansea University Opportunity Award and any other discretionary funds available directly from the University.
- We will continue to provide advice and support to current and prospective estranged students to ensure that they receive their full student funding entitlement and will assist them to address student funding issues that may arise.
- We will raise awareness among estranged students of opportunities for part time work and work placements.
- The University will also investigate the possibility of providing a specific bursary to aid estranged students with the additional costs they experience, particularly during the summer months when they are unable to return home.

Accommodation:

- We will ensure estranged students have guaranteed access to university accommodation for 365 days a year.
- Where necessary, we will ensure estranged students have access to emergency university accommodation to ensure they do not find themselves without anywhere to stay.

Mental Health:

- We will continue to signpost estranged students to the support available through our Wellbeing Service and our Disability Office to ensure they receive the support they require.
- We will continue to foster connections with local charities and groups to ensure additional support is also available from within the community.
- We will continue to raise awareness with all staff across the University, concerning the many challenges estranged students face and the support available within the University.

Outreach:

- We have recently created a specific webpage outlining the support available to estranged students.
- We will communicate the support available for estranged students in outreach work with local schools and colleges.
- We will provide a named member of staff to act as the single proactive point of contact for estranged students.

We are proud to sign this Pledge and commit to continue to seek opportunities to improve the provision we offer and we look forward to developing our relationship with StandAlone to support estranged students throughout their higher education journey.

Yours sincerely

Professor Martin Stringer