

4th August 2017

Professor Christina Slade
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To whom it may concern,

The Standalone Pledge: Supporting Estranged Students

Bath Spa University works to encourage as broad a range of students as possible to participate in, and benefit from, higher education and to providing fair and equal access to all who have the potential to succeed and benefit from the experience offered by the University. As a university we are particularly focussed on understanding and removing barriers that may prevent students from succeeding and were awarded the Buttle UK Quality Mark in recognition of our work with care experienced students.

Bath Spa understands that estranged students often experience additional challenges and can be at a higher risk of withdrawal, academic failure and homelessness than other groups of students. Standalone has identified there are currently around 30 estranged students at Bath Spa and we are working to introduce an opportunity for estranged students to disclose estrangement during their registration with the University for 2018 entry. We are also intending on adding estranged students to our Access Agreement, to enable them to be a priority group for the University bursary, as care experienced students are.

Bath Spa University pledges to provide estranged students with the following:

- A named member of staff in the Student Support Service who will be a point of contact from pre-entry and throughout their course. They can facilitate referral to further services offered by Student Support, including: Disability Advice, Money Advice, Mental Health and Wellbeing Service and the Peer Mentor Scheme.
- Provide advice and guidance to estranged students on how to apply for funding available and associated benefits.
- A £1,000 'estranged student' bursary in each year of undergraduate study.
- A guarantee of 365 day appropriate accommodation.

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-2-

- The opportunity for applicants and existing students to apply to the Unite Foundation Scholarship Award scheme which provides 365 days of fully paid accommodation in Unite halls of residence and assistance with their application.
- Priority consideration for additional financial assistance from the BSU Access fund.
- A webpage for estranged students with useful links and contact information.
- An allocated Peer Mentor to assist with transition to university.
- Signposting to external organisations and internal teams for specialist advice and guidance.

We are committed to supporting estranged students and to developing our offer for this group. By signing this pledge we agree to review our estranged student action plan every year and to listen to the experiences of our students to identify ways we can further develop our support package.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christina Slade".

Professor Christina Slade
Vice-Chancellor