



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

24 June 2019

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

Dear Susan (if I may)

Stand Alone Pledge for Estranged students at the University of Edinburgh

We are writing this letter to confirm our commitment to the Stand Alone pledge to support estranged students at the University of Edinburgh.

Everyone deserves an equal opportunity to study at Edinburgh. Building on our values, and our commitment to having a positive impact on our local and global community, we are working to ensure that students from a wide range of diverse backgrounds thrive and feel a sense of belonging.

We do not underestimate the impact that estrangement from family support can have on a student when they come to study at University. To ensure estranged students are well supported at every level of the University of Edinburgh we have established an Edinburgh Cares committee (made up of senior level staff from across the University) and within this committee we have developed a holistic approach to supporting our care experienced and estranged students as well as student carers. Through meeting and spending time with students who are estranged from their families we have learnt about the varying needs and challenges these students face and we have developed a package of support across the whole student journey.

Elements of our support package include:

- Bespoke advice and support for estranged young people interested in studying at the University of Edinburgh <https://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/access-edinburgh/carers-care-experience/estranged-students>
- A named contact at the University for any estranged student applying to or studying at the University of Edinburgh.
- A financial scholarship of £5000 every year of study (from September 2020).
- Fully-funded places within our Unite student accommodation (available for a limited number of care-experienced or estranged students).

We are actively considering additional ways we can support estranged students within the University of Edinburgh so we look forward to working with Stand Alone and our students to develop this important work.

With best regards,

Peter

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