

23rd November 2020

Dear StandAlone,

Re: StandAlone Pledge for Estranged Students at The University of Law

This letter sets out The University of Law's commitment to the StandAlone pledge. It details how we will provide for the needs of estranged students studying without the support of a family network.

The University of Law believes that all students should have the opportunity to realise their potential, regardless of their background. We recognise that estrangement can have an impact on educational opportunities and are committed to supporting estranged students to study with us, to excel in their studies and to progress into employment.

The development of our pledge has given us the opportunity to clearly articulate our offering for estranged students and to find out what our students value most in terms of support. The University has a dedicated [webpage](#) which communicates the range of support available to estranged students.

Finance

Estranged students are eligible to apply for any of our scholarships. A large number of our scholarships require students to meet certain widening participation criteria, and estrangement is one of these.

During their course, our estranged students are able to apply for all of our hardship funding opportunities, provided they also meet the other eligibility criteria.

The University offers other financial support specifically to estranged students, which includes the following:

- Financial contribution towards interview clothes.
- Financial contribution towards graduation.
- Free Totum card.

The University also offers all estranged students advice and guidance throughout the student finance application process, including on how to apply for independent status with Student Finance England/Wales/Scotland/Ni.

Accommodation

We do not have any university-owned accommodation. Instead the University has an [online accommodation portal](#) which provides helpful advice to students on choosing a property to rent near their campus as well as a property listings search for students who have accepted at our University. Estranged students are encouraged to contact our dedicated Accommodation Officer for advice about accessing accommodation for 52 weeks of the year.

We also support our students to meet other University of Law students to privately rent with through our [Campus Facebook groups](#). These enable our students to chat to and make living arrangements with fellow students in their local area.

Student Support Services

Estranged students are offered appointments with the Welfare Service within the first month of their course start date. These appointments may be conducted face to face, on Skype or over the phone. During the appointment

students will be introduced to the team and will have an opportunity to discuss any concerns they have as well as being informed about support on offer at the University during their studies.

Through our Counselling Service we offer confidential face-to-face and online counselling with trained professionals and can provide advice on how to get the best support for our students.

The University also provides access to a range of other self-help resources through our Wellbeing app such as Togetherall and Blackbullion (a financial advice platform).

Outreach and Transition

Our Domestic Student Recruitment team offers outreach sessions and activities for estranged students such as campus visits and attendance at careers events. They also offer individual campus tours for any students interested in coming to study at one of our campuses. We give priority access to estranged students on our internal outreach programmes, such as our work experience programme.

We also offer undergraduate estranged students special consideration in the admissions process. If a student mentions that they are estranged in their application to the University we may ask for slightly lower grades from them as part of a contextual offer.

Pre-entry, students also have access to our named contact, Helena Bowring, for support and advice. Helena can assist students with any queries or concerns and also put them in touch with the Welfare Officer at their campus.

The campus Welfare Officers can meet students prior to induction, arrange campus visits and will always be there to help navigate the exciting opportunities on offer as well as providing advice and guidance should any issues arise.

Teaching

The University of Law's unique teaching model is designed to provide students with a professional, contemporary and supportive learning environment with plenty of practical, interactive engagement. Our contact hours are high and our teaching groups are small.

Employability

Our Employability Service offers a guaranteed careers appointment to any estranged student within the first six weeks of commencing their course. Further, we guarantee to shortlist any such students who apply for internal roles, such as Employability Ambassador or Employability Summer Intern.

The University of Law welcomes the opportunity that this pledge offers to ensure that estranged students are fully supported during their studies and looks forward to working with StandAlone.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Andrea Nollent
Vice-Chancellor and CEO
The University of Law