

15 December 2021



Stand Alone  
34B York Way  
LONDON  
N1 9AB

Lucy Evans  
Chief Student Officer

Senate House  
Guildford, Surrey GU2 7XH UK

[l.evans@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:l.evans@surrey.ac.uk)  
[www.surrey.ac.uk](http://www.surrey.ac.uk)

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing this letter as a commitment from The University of Surrey to the Stand Alone Pledge, demonstrating our support for students who are estranged and are studying without the support of their family.

We are committed to providing an inclusive education and opportunities for all students. Considering this, we recognise the need for enhanced support for estranged students. We collect data annually on how many estranged students join The University of Surrey; in the year 2020-2021, 98 students self-declared their status as estranged.

We have a holistic support package at The University of Surrey available for estranged students which is detailed below:

#### **Outreach and transition**

- Estranged students are a priority target group for all the University's widening participation and outreach activity, including the Year 12 Residential and Virtual Summer School Programme and year 12 Taster Days. In 2021, 4 estranged students attended these programmes, which ran with very reduced numbers due to Covid. During the pandemic we moved to an online delivery model and reduced the application process to increase engagement.
- We have an admissions access scheme, In2Surrey, which is designed to support eligible students, including those who are estranged, enter the university. It offers an alternative grade offer, access to on-campus events, an e-mentor and a programme of pre-entry transition support.
- We provide a welcome pack to estranged students upon arrival.



### **On course support**

- We proactively reach out to estranged students at the beginning of the academic year to offer them 1:1 support
- We have a dedicated Careers Advisor who supports estranged students. This staff member is available to signpost, provide advice and guidance on many careers related queries including advice on CV enhancement and preparation for assessment centres.

Grants are available for estranged students to undertake a summer programme overseas through the International Engagement Office

- Estranged students have access to the Team Surrey Sports and Activity fund of up to £250, which supports them in accessing the Surrey Sports Park.
- Estranged students can also apply for the Access to Learning fund to help pay for books, IT equipment or anything else that might be required to aid a student's learning – this is a grant of up to £250.
- The new Student Success Team is now in place to offer proactive support and guidance for students who are at risk of withdrawal and provide these students with long term pastoral support. Although the team supports all students and manages a range of complex student cases, they also have an added focus on supporting widening participation students and can provide estranged students with one-to-one pastoral support in the form of regular appointments and provide information advice and guidance throughout their time at university. The team also offers a bespoke goals-setting resource for estranged students.
- Specific information for Estranged students can be found on the student communities page [www.surrey.ac.uk/student-support/student-communities](http://www.surrey.ac.uk/student-support/student-communities) .
- We are committed to listening to the voices of students through establishing an estranged students' network and providing the opportunity for estranged students to feed back to the university about their experience, as well as a space to support each other and to socialise.
- Finally, we also offer the Battersea Scholarship, which provides £3,000 per year for a maximum of four years (this can include a Professional Training Year) and will support one student who is estranged from their family. The bursary is generously funded by our Alumni from the Battersea College of Technology, the forerunner institution to the University of Surrey.

## Accommodation

- Estranged students are prioritised for accommodation on campus and they can access year-round accommodation, for a full 365 days.

• Estranged Students are also able to apply to the University's Guarantor Scheme

The University of Surrey is committed to learning from best practice in the higher education sector and ensures that evaluations of all our initiatives, which support access and participation, are an embedded part of our programme delivery. Below is a list of developmental priorities for improving policy, practice and provision at our institution for estranged students, which will be overseen by the University's Access and Participation Advisory Group:

- We are looking at pathways into further study for estranged students.
- We will continually commit to measuring the impact of policy and practice on estranged students and continue to place the voice of estranged students at the heart of developing new initiatives.

We hope that this letter effectively demonstrates our commitment to supporting estranged students across the student lifecycle. If you would like any further information from us, please do not hesitate to be in touch.

Yours faithfully



Lucy Evans  
Chief Student Officer



Date 20/05/2020



Guildford, Surrey GU2 7XH UK

T: +44 (0)1483 300800  
+44 (0)1483 300803

[www.surrey.ac.uk](http://www.surrey.ac.uk)

Stand Alone  
34B York Way  
London  
N1 9AB

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing this letter as a commitment from The University of Surrey to the Stand Alone Pledge, demonstrating our support for students who are estranged and are studying without the support of their family.

We are committed to providing an inclusive education and opportunities for all students. Considering this, we recognise the need for enhanced support for estranged students. We began collecting data in the 2019/2020 academic year on how many estranged students joined The University of Surrey; currently 71 students have self-declared their status as estranged.

We have a holistic support package at The University of Surrey available for estranged students which is detailed below:

#### **Outreach and transition**

- Estranged students are a priority target group for all the University's widening participation and outreach activity, including the Year 12 Residential Summer School Programme and year 12 Taster Days, which in 2018 saw 6 students who declared that they were estranged.
- We have an admissions access scheme, In2Surrey, which is designed to support eligible students including those who are estranged, enter the university. It offers an alternative grade offer, access to on-campus events, an e-mentor and a scholarship of up to £1,500.
- We provide moving in support for estranged students and care leavers; students have a specific point of contact on moving in day and, from 2020/21, will receive a welcome pack upon arrival.

#### **On course support**

- A dedicated Senior Support Officer is available to support estranged students. This staff member provides bespoke pastoral and welfare support.
- We have a dedicated Careers Advisor who supports estranged students. This staff member is available to signpost, provide advice and guidance on many careers related queries including advice on CV enhancement and preparation for assessment centres.



## Accommodation

- Estranged students are prioritised for accommodation on campus and they can access year-round 365 accommodation. This information can be found on the following link <https://www.surrey.ac.uk/student-support/student-communities> . The Senior Support Officer also refers students to the accommodation team in their second and third years of study to access year-round 365 accommodation.
- Estranged students are given special consideration for our summer placements abroad through our Global Engagement Team.

The University of Surrey is committed to learning from best practice in the higher education sector and ensures that evaluations of all our initiatives, which support access and participation, are an embedded part of our programme delivery. Below is a list of developmental priorities for improving policy, practice and provision at our institution for estranged students, which will be overseen by the University's Access and Participation Advisory Group:

- We will ensure we have a guarantor scheme in place for estranged students.
- We will look to create priority access for estranged students to the hardship fund.
- We are looking at pathways into further study for estranged students.
- We are looking at creating an estranged student specific bursary.
- We will continually commit to measuring the impact of policy and practice on estranged students and continue to place the voice of estranged students at the heart of developing new initiatives.

We hope that this letter effectively demonstrates our commitment to supporting estranged students across the student lifecycle. If you would like any further information from us, please do not hesitate to be in touch.

Yours faithfully,



Lucy Evans  
**Chief Student Officer**  
**On behalf of the University of Surrey**

