



Becca Bland
Chief Executive
Stand Alone
34B York Way
London
N1 9AB

10 October 2020

Dear Ms Bland,

Re: Leeds Arts University commitment to the Stand Alone Pledge

We are very proud to endorse and sign the Stand Alone Pledge to champion estranged students and enable their access, participation, and success in higher education in the Creative Arts.

Our commitment to support estranged students throughout their journey into and through their higher education is demonstrated by the following:

- **Outreach and transition into higher education:** We will support estranged students by providing opportunities to join in the free Progression and outreach programme of activities. This will enable students to develop their creative skills and confidence through the After School Club, attending our summer and Easter holiday intensives, and through the 'Preparation for Arts University' short course. We also offer an invitation of a bespoke tour to gain an orientation of the university, advice and support in building an application to higher education, and the opportunity to rehearse an Arts focused interview with tutorial feedback and support.
- **Finance:** We provide advice about applying as an estranged or independent student to Student Finance England and support throughout the process. We also provide support in applying for the [Leeds Arts University Estranged Students Bursary](#) and further financial support available at the university.
- **Accommodation:** We provide advice and support in negotiating 365-day access to accommodation with student accommodation providers.

- **Mental Health and Wellbeing:** To generate a sense of wellbeing and belonging to the university community, we have a designated estranged student support member of staff in the Student Welfare team who will contact the student on point of application and be able to refer to other support services across the university, including Student Support, Student Welfare, Mental Health and Wellbeing, and the Student Union. We also offer the opportunity to meet with a current student as part of the Buddy Scheme from the outset of study.
- **Information and awareness:** We have a dedicated webpage detailing the support we offer to estranged students, available at: <https://www.leeds-art.ac.uk/student-support/care-leavers-and-estranged-students/>.

We will continue to review our offer in consultation with our students, ensuring the level of support is right for them and making necessary changes.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Simone Wonnacott
Vice Chancellor

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