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Dear Becca

Nottingham Trent University is proud to commit to the Stand Alone Pledge. NTU has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to widening participation in higher education and - through our 'Success for All' agenda - strives to provide the opportunity for all students to succeed, with a range of targeted support and activities throughout the student life cycle.

We appreciate the additional challenges and barriers that students who are studying without the support or approval of their families face. Through the Stand Alone pledge, we aim to raise awareness of our existing support for estranged students as well as identify areas for enhancement and development.

We have mapped our current support/activities into the four main areas of the pledge:

Finance: Designated staff provide specialist advice to estranged students on making student finance applications, including how to evidence Independent Student Status. Staff can also offer money and budgeting advice. In addition, the University has a Hardship Fund for UK home students experiencing financial difficulties.

Accommodation: The University offers vacation accommodation in Halls of Residence and allows estranged students to return to halls for their second and final years of study, if requested. We also underwrite deposits for University Halls of Residence for estranged students who do not have the means to pay their deposit until they receive their student funding.

Mental Health and Wellbeing: Each Academic School has a dedicated Student Support Adviser who is a member of the University's Wellbeing Service. Students and School staff are advised that they are the contact person within the School for estranged students. The Student Support Advisers can support estranged students on a wide range of issues, offering practical, study-related and emotional support, and acting as a key liaison point



with the Course Team. They are also able to make referrals through to other internal and external services, including target referrals to Mental Health Support and Counselling.

Outreach and Transition: Our Outreach team can offer tailored, one-to-one support or small group University application advice, as well as campus tours for estranged students.

In addition to the above existing support, there are a number of areas we would like to develop to enhance our support for estranged students, which includes the following:

- The introduction of a bursary for estranged students who are identified as estranged by their UK Student Finance Service. This bursary will be for full-time UK undergraduate students
- Dedicated advice pages for Estranged Students, covering the four main pledge areas
- Access to information resources on Guarantor Schemes
- Awareness-raising and training opportunities for Residential Assistants and Wardens in Halls of Residence
- Clear referral and disclosure processes for both students and staff to enable estranged students to access support early

We are committed to the Stand Alone Pledge and look forward to seeing the benefits that this work will bring to students.

Yours faithfully



Professor Eunice Simmons
Deputy Vice-Chancellor – Academic and Student Affairs

