

To Whom It May Concern

Kingston University is committed to supporting students who are studying without the practical and emotional support of a family network. We recognise that for these students, there may be significant challenges in them engaging and succeeding in Higher Education. We have been offering financial and pastoral support to estranged students since 2010 as an extension of our enhanced support for care experienced students through our KU Cares scheme. When we took the Stand Alone Pledge in 2016, we were working with 43 students, and this number continues to grow; in the 2023-24 academic year we are supporting over 160 estranged students.

We will continue to support estranged students through our existing offer of:

- Bursaries whilst on-course, as well as a graduation bursary to support the transition out of university.
- Priority access to 365-day accommodation.
- Tailored pastoral support through a designated contact on the KU Cares scheme.
- Targeted additional opportunities such as paid work, mentoring, peer support, and social events.

We are working closely with our Careers and Employability Service to improve our offer for KU Cares students to support their transition from university after graduation, as well as looking at on-course opportunities to enhance estranged students' confidence around their career prospects.

We are deeply saddened by the news of Stand Alone closing and have been inspired and informed by their tireless work in raising the profile of estranged students within the sector. We will always be appreciative of the support and challenge they have offered institutions to better their provision for estranged students. We are committed to continuing this incredibly important work institutionally and advocating for the needs of estranged students across the sector. Kingston University is proud to be taking the Stand Alone Legacy Pledge.

This work will be delivered and led by the KU Cares Team who can be contacted by emailing [kucares@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:kucares@kingston.ac.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Louisa Green  
Executive Director, Students Directorate