



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

March 2024

Dear Susan,

Stand Alone Legacy Pledge for Estranged Students at the University of Edinburgh

Supporting estranged students is of the utmost importance to us here at the University of Edinburgh. Taking a whole institution approach, we have worked hard to offer opportunities for estranged students to participate fully in all aspects of student life. We were in a strong position when we signed the original pledge in 2019 and we have made significant progress in our work with this student group since then. We continue our commitment to this student group via our ambitious Widening Participation Strategy. The strategy outline ways in which we will support students from a range of diverse and underrepresented groups. In addition, since 2021 our estranged students have been supported by our corporate parenting plan.

Progress to date

Since our Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Peter Mathieson shared the University of Edinburgh's commitment in 2019, we are proud to share that we have been able to make the following progress:

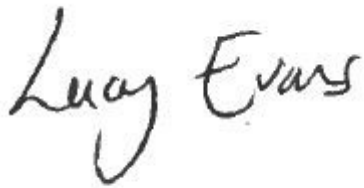
- A new model of Student Support has been introduced across the University. This is to ensure that students have access to an ecosystem of timely, professional, empathetic support covering both academic and pastoral matters, providing support in a more cohort or community-focused environment for students when and where they need it.
- The Edinburgh Cares Committee continues to meet regularly to continue the University wide, holistic work in supporting priority student groups including estranged students and now also reports in annually to the University Executive
- In 2021 our estranged students informed a research study to help us better understand their needs and this led to our current Corporate Parenting Plan and actions
- Since 2022 our Estranged students are recognised within and supported by our Corporate Parenting Plan
- Staff training is now available to all staff across the institution on the issues impacting our estranged students
- Our Access Edinburgh Scholarship continues to be one of the most generous in the sector.
- Fully funded places within our Unite student accommodation (available to a limited number of our care-experienced and estranged students)

Our Standalone Legacy Pledge

We will continue our commitment to working in partnership with our estranged students. Together we will continue to build a resilient student community and create a strong sense of belonging. By listening to, and working with, our students we will further our work in providing an extraordinary academic experience alongside excellent wellbeing support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colm Harmon', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Professor Colm Harmon
Vice Principal Students

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucy Evans', written in a cursive style.

Lucy Evans
Deputy Secretary Students