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From the Office of the  
Chief Student Officer

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27<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Susan Mueller,

### **Stand Alone Legacy Pledge**

We are saddened to hear of the closure of Stand Alone which provided much needed support to students estranged from their families; and provided educational establishments with information, support, and resources.

The University of Surrey has supported the Stand Alone pledge for several years and has continued to update the Pledge annually as our offer to estranged students has increased. We are committed to providing an inclusive education and opportunities for all students, and we are writing this letter to demonstrate the commitment of the University of Surrey to the Stand-Alone Legacy Pledge.

We will continue to deliver our holistic package for estranged students at the University of Surrey which includes:

Outreach and Transition:

- Year 12 Residential and Virtual Summer School Programme and taster days.
- Our contextualised admissions scheme, In2Surrey, which offers an alternative grade offer (equivalent to two A-level grades and one Btech grade lower). They also have access to on-campus events, an e-mentor and a programme of pre-entry transition support.
- Welcome packs gifted to students upon arrival.

Financial Support:

- We offer a £3000 bursary with a £500 Moving On payment on graduation to all students who are estranged.
- Grants are available for estranged students to undertake a summer programme overseas through the International Engagement Office.
- Team Surrey Sports and Activity fund of up to £250 which supports them in accessing the Surrey Sports Park.

- Access to Learning fund of up to £250 to help pay for books, IT equipment or anything else that might be required to aid their learning.
- 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 estranged student.

#### Accommodation

- Priority for on-campus accommodation which estranged students can access for a full 365 days for every year of study.
- If students opt to rent privately, they have access to our Guarantor Scheme and the University of Surrey will cover all associated administration costs.

#### On-Course Support

- 1:1 proactive support from the beginning of the academic year.
- A dedicated Careers Consultant who is available to signpost, provide advice and guidance on many careers-related queries including CV enhancement, preparation for graduate recruitment and pathways into further study.
- Access to the University's long term Laptop Loan Scheme due to be launched after the Spring break 2024 which allows students to loan a laptop semesterly or across the academic year.
- A named contact in the Student Success Team who offers proactive support and guidance for students who are at risk of withdrawal and provide these students with long term pastoral support.
- The Estranged Students' Network where estranged students can feed back to the University about their experience and offers a space to support each other and to socialise.

We will continue to support estranged students and review our offer of support in order to continue to foster a sense of belonging and community for our students.

Further 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).

Yours sincerely



**Kerry Matthews**  
**Chief Student Officer**