

Dr Rebecca Bland
Stand Alone
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20 April 2021

Dear Dr Bland

Following unanimous approval by the University of Northampton's Management Team, I am submitting the University's Stand Alone Pledge.

The University's vision is to 'Transform Lives and inspire Change' through the provision of a super supportive student experience designed to ensure every student can succeed.

We have embedded a comprehensive range of support services into the student experience to address the barriers to success students from under-represented groups and vulnerable young people face. Amongst other things, these include specialist disability support services, student benefit and financial support packages, personal tutoring and access to confidential mental health and counselling services. In addition, as an alum of the University of Northampton, students are supported for life with careers and employability support and access to post graduate study.

Recognising the specific needs of our estranged students we are committed to enhancing our existing provision to ensure it is better targeted and accessible to those students and ensuring it has a positive impact on their attainment, wellbeing, and life chances. Working with our estranged students, we are committed to expanding our provision, building on what works and what our students need.



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Our Stand Alone Pledge is to create an environment where all estranged students can thrive, with a focus on: -

Finance

- The provision of a student benefit package for the three years of undergraduate study to improve student success.
- The provision of a bursary up to £1,500 for all estranged undergraduate students.
- Access to temporary and casual work that fits in with studying so students can earn while they learn
- Access to specialist financial guidance support.
- Discount on post-graduate course fees

Accommodation

- Flexible tenancy arrangements for UON accommodation.
- The University will work with private landlords to improve access to accommodation in the private sector

Mental Health and Wellbeing

- Access to free sports and societies through the Northampton Student Union (NSU)
- Access to mental health services and counselling.
- Prioritisation within the university's wellbeing community.

Outreach and transition

- Use of the Student Loans Company data to help identify students
- Raise the profile of the support available through the University's website, open days, and induction events.
- Signposting to support services through the student hub and as part of our transition into higher education activities.
- Working with local partners through our schools and community outreach work to improve pathways to higher education and expand support provision



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We are delighted to have the opportunity to work with Stand Alone and look forward to building a relationship that enhances support to our estranged students in the future.

Kind regards



Professor Nick Petford DSc
Vice Chancellor and CEO



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