

**Principal & Vice-Chancellor's Office**

University of Stirling  
Stirling FK9 4LA  
Scotland UK

T : +44 (0) 1786 467 012

E : [principal@stir.ac.uk](mailto:principal@stir.ac.uk)

W : [stir.ac.uk](http://stir.ac.uk)

24 April 2019

Susan Mueller  
HE Project Director  
Stand Alone  
34b York Way  
London  
N1 9AB

Dear Susan

**University of Stirling's Pledge to help estranged students overcome disadvantage**

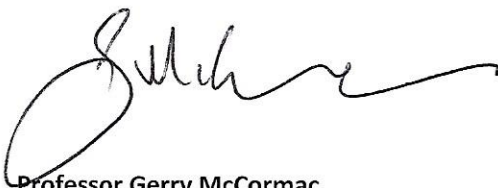
At the University of Stirling we recognise that students who are estranged from, or who have been disowned by, their families, at any point of their student journey, can experience significant additional emotional and financial challenges which can impact their studies and student experience.

As part of our duties as a Corporate Parent, we have long demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting our students who may lack a familial support network and face additional barriers in their studies. For some time now we have offered the enhanced support mechanisms to our estranged students:-

1. We provide comprehensive pre-application and transition support. Our advisers provide information, advice and guidance to anyone interested in applying to university. This includes help to choose a course, to find the right route into university or even how to write a personal statement;
2. We have a single point of contact for our estranged students which ensures an individualised package of support is implemented for the student, including financial and mental wellbeing support.
3. We can provide 365 day accommodation for students who lack a family or support network and want to stay on campus during vacation.
4. We have an established financial bursary of £500 for estranged students.
5. The University of Stirling does not charge students a graduation fee, and, in addition, can assist our estranged students by covering additional graduation costs such as gown hire.

We look forward to working with Stand Alone to ensure the support offered to our estranged students, is truly comprehensive and tailored to their needs. The University of Stirling is proud to take the pledge to develop our estranged students and to help transform their lives by giving them the opportunity to reach their full potential within higher education.

Yours sincerely



**Professor Gerry McCormac**  
Principal and Vice-Chancellor