



# Awards for Excellence and Innovation 2018

The Stand Alone HE awards recognise outstanding commitment to supporting estranged students alongside innovative and effective strategies or projects aimed at estranged students.

## Nominations



### Finance

#### **Manchester Metropolitan University** | [Summer Bursary](#)

MMU introduced a specific summer bursary for estranged students of £1,000 in 2016. In its first year it reached 93 students. In addition, there is the Stepping Stone payment of £200 for final year students to assist with exit costs such as graduation

#### **Sheffield University** | [Enhanced bursary](#)

Sheffield offers enhanced bursaries and scholarships for undergraduate students estranged from family up to £4,500 per year (f/t) and £2,250 per year (p/t)

#### **University of Wolverhampton** | [Bursary for UG and PG](#)

Estranged students have access to an annual bursary of £1,000 for both undergraduate and postgraduate study.

### Accommodation

#### **Keele University** | [Access to accommodation on clearing](#)

Students applying through clearing are referred to the accommodation team to be prioritised so that they could access on campus accommodation even when applications are closed.

#### **Liverpool John Moores University** | [Guarantor waiver](#)

LJMU supports students to secure suitable accommodation including the waiving of the need for a guarantor both in a LJMU partner hall and with private landlords and accommodation providers.

#### **Sheffield Hallam University** | [Residential wellbeing support group](#)

SHU have trialled a residential wellbeing support group for estranged students in 2 halls of residences.





## Outreach and Transition

### **Kingston University** | [KU Cares Compact Scheme](#)

Support is promoted to applicants on numerous platforms: information is included in the offer letter, at Open and Applicant Days, and in sessions at the Compact Scheme Transitional Summer Scheme.

### **Exeter University** | [Raising awareness of the Pledge with local schools and colleges](#)

The outreach team promote the support for estranged students at Exeter and the Stand Alone Pledge to local schools and college and at their annual HE Advisers Day.

### **Sheffield Hallam University** | [Estranged Students Transition Fund](#)

A specific fund for first year students who don't have practical, emotional and financial support from family during their move to University. The fund ensures that estranged students don't need to worry about finding the money to hire a removal van or buy new pots and pans - instead they will be able to focus on settling in, meeting new friends, and making Sheffield their home.

## Mental health

### **Brunel University** | [Seasons for Growth programme](#)

The Seasons for Growth aims to build resilience and bring hope and confidence to adults who have experienced significant change or loss. The programme imparts knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable participants to understand and manage their grief experience. Brunel's dedicated named contact for estranged students is the trained companion for the programme.

### **Salford University** | [PAUSE](#)

PAUSE is a peer-led support group for students without family. It was established in March 2017 in collaboration with a local youth charity and is led by and developed by students with ongoing support from Salford University's student support team.

### **Derby University** | [Counselling and on-going support](#)

Estranged students with mental health difficulties are offered short-term counselling and an on-going support plan that makes their lecturers aware of how their mental health may impact on their studies, list adjustments to their studies and support them to apply for Disabled Students' Allowances (DSA).

## Graduation and beyond

### **Cardiff University** | [Graduation support](#)

For graduation the university has 20 free packages available to students, including estranged students, for hire of cap and gown and a free photo package. These packages are offered to students supported under the under-represented students' strategy. In addition, the final instalment of £500 of the estranged student bursary is paid in the last term to help with the cost of leaving university.

### **University of Westminster** | [Extended employment for graduates](#)

University policy has been changed to allow estranged students to extend their employment contracts with the university until September after graduation. Estranged students found the prospect very daunting of leaving university and their work at a time when income was important. The change in policy helps ease the financial pressure of transition at the end of students' studies.

### **University of Southampton** | [Bursary for post graduate study](#)

The University of Southampton's graduation pack covers the cost of robe hire, photos and a ticket to the Graduation Ball. The annual bursary for estranged students of £2,000 includes the first year of post graduate study.





## Staff development and cross-institutional working

### **UWE Bristol** | Cross-institutional strategy

UWE's cross-university strategy of support for estranged students is developed with input from students themselves. It involves working with Heads of Accommodation, the Policy Team, the Student Money Service, Third Party Guarantors, Senior Leaders and the SU to raise awareness of estrangement and bring about a culture change.

### **King's College London** | Extending resources

KCL works to support estranged students effectively by drawing on resources from across all relevant university departments thus increasing the level of support that can be provided to individual students.

### **Salford University** | Staff training for professional departments

The student support team AskUS have rolled out a programme of information on support for estranged students across the university's schools and professional departments. Referrals from those schools and departments where the training has already taken place has been markedly higher than from those that have not yet been trained.

## Engaging with estranged students

### **University of Strathclyde** | Identification of estranged students

Strathclyde was the first university in Scotland to add a question to their enrolment form and identify estranged students at enrolment stage so that they can be contacted and support be offered to them.

### **University of Sunderland** | Developing the Pledge commitment

Development of support is led by involving estranged students directly. Students identify their priorities and support needs and send ideas and suggestions to the student support team for consideration and implementation. Students are also invited to contribute to shaping and monitoring the Action Plan.

### **UWE Bristol** | Twice yearly "Student Voice" meeting

Estranged students meet the Pro-VC of Student Experience twice a year to discuss what they would like and need from UWE Bristol. The actions from the meeting feed into the development of support and policy across UWE.

## Working in partnership with the Student Union

### **Keele University** | Estranged Students Solidarity Campaign Week 2017

ESSC week 2017 gave rise to a strong collaboration between the SU and Student Support at Keele to raise awareness, reach estranged students and promote the support on offer. As part of the collaboration a working group with estranged students was set up to discuss and plan ideas for the campaign which included a staff awareness session, social media campaign and a meeting with the Pro Vice Chancellor.

### **Swansea University** | Student involvement

An estranged student at Swansea worked with the SU to raise awareness around the issue of attending University without family support. The student wrote articles and blogs and met with SU officers and was supported by Swansea's student support team.

### **University of the West of Scotland** | Working in partnership with SAUWS to support Estranged Students

The Student Support team at UWS work closely with UWS Student Association advisers thus providing a wider skills base to address the barriers that estranged students face. Using this additional source of support helps to build positive relationships with the students and builds their self-esteem and has strengthened the relationship between UWS and the Students Association.





## Excellence in Further Education

### **Blackpool & The Fylde College** | Support throughout the student journey

At B&FC estranged students are targeted in outreach work and identified at application stage so that they can be offered support for the duration of their course. They have access to the college's Flying Start and SUCCEED programmes.

### **West College Scotland** | Working with the Students Association

In order to grow awareness of estrangement and of the support available to estranged students the Student Support Team at WCS work closely with their Students' Association.

### **Hartpury College** | Accommodation

The college are able to offer 365 days access to accommodation and waive the need for a deposit for onsite accommodation for students who are independent and financially challenged, including estranged students.