Support for students who are estranged from their parents

2019-2020
1. **Introduction**

If you have no contact with your parents, you could be exempt from their income being taken into account when working out how much funding we can give you. This may apply if there is a permanent breakdown in your relationship with them and there is no sign of this being resolved in the future – we refer to this as ‘estrangement’.

Generally, we would expect that you have had no contact with them for at least 12 months, however we assess all cases individually.

2. **Funding Available**

If we consider you estranged from your parents, we will not take their income into account when assessing your entitlement to support. Instead, you will be awarded support as an independent student. Generally, this means that you will be entitled to the maximum Independent Student Bursary (ISB) and student loan for living costs. More information on the level of funding available can be found on our [website](#).

3. **Providing the evidence we need**

You should inform us that you are estranged from your parents when you apply for support (or as soon as possible afterwards) by submitting an enquiry in your SAAS Account. We will then send you a form to complete which asks you to confirm your circumstances and have this form endorsed by a professional person who knows your circumstances.

An example of a professional person could include a social worker, doctor, nurse, lawyer, solicitor, college/university adviser, teacher, nursery teacher, notary public, counsellor, police officer, minister of religion or family mediation worker. The person should know you in their professional capacity.

You can return the completed form to us using the document upload service in your SAAS Account, or you can post it to us.

4. **Sources of advice for estranged students**

- Propel [www.propel.org.uk](http://www.propel.org.uk)
- Breathing Space [www.breathingspace.scot](http://www.breathingspace.scot)
- Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH) [www.samh.org.uk](http://www.samh.org.uk)
- Stand Alone [https://www.standalone.org.uk/](https://www.standalone.org.uk/)