

ESTRANGED STUDENT BURSARY GUIDANCE 2018/19

What is the Estranged Student Bursary?

The Estranged Student Bursary is an award of £1,000 per year of study intended to provide extra financial support for eligible students.

Who can apply?

To be eligible you must meet the following criteria:

- You are estranged from either both biological parents, adoptive parents or only living parent.
- You must be aged under 25 on 1st September 2018 (or a continuing student who has turned 25 during study and received an Estranged Student Bursary in previous academic years)
- You must be in receipt of Student Finance from SFE, SFW or SASS. International students cannot apply.

If you are estranged from both of your biological, adoptive parents, or only living parent, you will be eligible to apply for the Estranged Student Bursary. Student Finance considers you an independent student on the basis of being estranged from your parents if you have not had verbal or written contact with both of your biological, adoptive, or only living parent for a significant period of time and your estrangement is irreconcilable.

Along with your bursary application form please provide: a copy of your student finance breakdown, along with the supporting document/s that Student Finance has already accepted from you as evidence of your estrangement e.g. letter from professional person confirming your estrangement.

Securing independent student status on the basis of estrangement with Student Finance can sometimes be time consuming and difficult. If you are struggling with this process please contact Student Funding Advice: studentfunding@marjon.ac.uk for help or get in touch with the estrangement charity Stand Alone which has a dedicated student section on their website: standalone.org.uk/students/

You will only need to submit your estranged status confirmation evidence once throughout your studies but you will need to complete a bursary application form each year and provide your SFE funding breakdown to show that you have been re-awarded estranged student status each academic year.

If your situation changes and you have reconciled your relationship with your parent/s then you will no longer be eligible for the bursary as it would be expected for your parent/s to provide financial details in your student finance application and support you financially if necessary.

If you turn 25 before the start of an academic year then SFE will no longer require estrangement evidence for the upcoming academic year.

You will still be able to receive the Estranged Student Bursary if you have received one in previous years however, you will need to provide updated evidence from a professional person that is aware of your estranged status. They must provide this evidence with their contact details as we may need to contact

them for further confirmation. If we are not satisfied we may request further evidence and if sufficient evidence cannot be provided a bursary may not be granted at the discretion of the University.

When can I apply?

To apply for the bursary or if you would like further information regarding your eligibility please contact Student Funding Advice directly: studentfunding@marjon.ac.uk

Continuing estranged students who have already received a bursary award will be emailed a new application form at the start of each academic year.

You can apply anytime during the academic year up until the end of Semester B/the summer term; however it is advisable to apply early as the bursary is paid from the University Hardship Fund and if the funds are low a full bursary award cannot be guaranteed.

Conditions of the Estranged Student Bursary

Students must be in attendance and progressing with their studies.

If a student does not attend regularly, submit work or make contact with Student Support if they are having difficulties then it is at the discretion of the University to reduce the amount of bursary in accordance with participation.

The bursary is available for each academic year including retake years however, as above, if a retake is due to lack of attendance or work submission and not because of extenuating circumstances such as illness or bereavement etc. then the amount received may be reduced.

As stated in the "Who can apply?" section students must be aged under 25 on 1st September 2018 to be eligible (unless they are a continuing student who has turned 25 during study and been awarded an Estranged Student Bursary in previous years).

This is to coincide with the support given for Care Leavers in higher education which is provided until the age of 25 and the Student Finance Guidelines which deem a student as independent from their parents at 25 years old.

A payment cannot be backdated for previous academic years if a student did not apply previously.

How and when is it paid?

When the funding adviser sends you an application form they will also send you a BACS form that you need to complete and return to finance@marjon.ac.uk in order to receive payment.

You will also need to contact the Student Funding Adviser for a BACS form if your bank details change to make sure future payments go into your new account.

The bursary is paid just before the summer break in order to help students with extra accommodation costs over the summer period. However, if any unexpected expenses occur please book an appointment with the Student Funding Adviser in Student Support to discuss your financial situation.

Is there any further financial support that I can receive?

As an estranged student you should be assessed as an independent student by Student Finance and be in receipt of the maximum amount of maintenance loan. If you have any queries about your funding or do not think you are receiving the maximum please email Student Funding Advice:

studentfunding@marjon.ac.uk

If you get into financial difficulty during your studies please make sure you book an appointment to see the Student Funding Adviser to discuss your situation and the further support we may be able to offer.

Where to submit your form and evidence

You can either email your completed form and evidence to: studentfunding@marjon.ac.uk or hand in hard copies to the University Information Hub. Electronic signatures will be accepted if you submit via email provided that the form is sent via your Marjon student email account.