

Generally, estrangement means you have little or no contact with your parents and this is unlikely to change.

How do I know if I qualify as an estranged student?

You could apply for student finance as an estranged student if:

- you haven't had any contact with either of your parents for 12 months or more; or
- your relationship with your parents has broken down within the last 12 months and you don't expect this to change in the near future.

If you are irreconcilably estranged from your parents, you will not be asked to provide any of your parent's financial details. We know that it may not be possible or safe for some students to ask their parents for their income details. If this applies to you, then you will be assessed as being an independent student. This means that once you send us evidence, we will award you the maximum amount of Maintenance Loan available.

Common examples of estrangement can include students that are living with friends, living in supported accommodation, or living with other family members such as aunts, uncles or grandparents.

Each application for estrangement is reviewed on your own unique circumstances.

And remember, you should always apply for student finance as soon as possible.

How do I apply as an estranged student?

If you already have evidence of your estrangement, sending us a copy is usually the fastest way to demonstrate estrangement (for example, a letter from your teacher, doctor, support worker or local authority etc which confirms that you are not in contact with your parents).

However, if you do not have any evidence, you can complete and digitally upload a Confirmation of Estrangement Form which can be found in your online account. This form also allows you to confirm the information we need to assess you as an estranged student.

What else do I need to know?

If you qualify as an estranged student, you will usually be assessed as estranged for the full duration of your course. However, if the estrangement is recent (usually within the last 12 months) or reconciliation with your parents seems possible, you may be asked to provide evidence of your continued estrangement when you apply for student finance in later years of your course.

Universities and Colleges can also provide estranged student support and you can talk with advisers who are usually found within the Student Services, Student Wellbeing or Student Union Teams at your uni or college. There is also independent support available from Stand Alone and you can write to The Student Loans Company's specialist team at estranged@slc.co.uk

Important links

Stand Alone – www.standalone.org