

Independent students who are Estranged

The information on this page is for young people who are thinking of applying to Warwick as an Undergraduate student for 2024 entry and are [independent because they are estranged from both of their parents](#). If you are planning to apply elsewhere, we would encourage you to contact your university choices to see what support is available to you.

1. 'Estranged' definition

An 'estranged student' is a young person under the age of 25 who is studying without the support and approval of both of their parents due to a breakdown in their relationship – this might be their birth, step or adoptive parents, and sometimes their wider family members.

If you have also spent 3 or more months in care, please see our [information for 'Care Experienced' students](#). Or, if you are independent because you have spent 13+ weeks in care since the age of 14 and were in care on your 16th birthday, please see our information for [Independent Students who are Care Leavers](#).

2. Applying to University

Students apply to university through the UCAS application form. This form includes your personal details, personal circumstances (this is where you can tell your university choices that you are estranged), educational history, predicted grades (where applicable), your course choices, your personal statement and your reference.

We would encourage you to tick the 'estranged student' tick-box on the UCAS form so that your university choices are notified of your circumstances and can offer you appropriate support, information and guidance. You can find out more about this tick-box online [here](#).

Would you consider yourself estranged from your parents (i.e. you are not in contact with and supported by your parents)?

☐ Yes ☒ No

This question is in the 'More About You' section of the UCAS form.

Evidence

The universities you apply to may ask you to provide evidence of your estrangement status so that appropriate support can be arranged for you. At Warwick, we advise students to provide evidence such as:

- A signed letter or email from your school, social worker or personal advisor confirming you are estranged from both of your parents.

- Evidence that you have been in receipt of Income Support and Housing Benefit during your post-16 education.
- A copy of your Student Finance assessment, stating that you have been assessed as Independent due to being estranged from both of your parents.

If you have applied to Warwick and have any questions about providing evidence, please contact our WP Lifecycle Team at lifecycleteam@warwick.ac.uk.

Please have a look at the links below for more information about applying to university:

- [Estranged Students](#)
- [How to apply](#)
- [When to apply](#)
- [Choosing a course](#)
- [Personal statements](#)
- [Individual needs/support](#)

3. Applying for Student Finance

You can apply to Student Finance England (or the equivalent awarding body in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland) for financial support with your tuition fees and living costs.

Tuition Fee Loans: These loans are paid directly to your university.

Maintenance Loans: These loans are usually means-tested (based on household income) and are paid to you.

To apply for financial support as an Estranged Student, you will need to complete an online application form and apply as an **'Independent Student'**. You can do this if:

- You haven't had any contact with both of your parents for 12 months or more; or
- Your relationship with both of 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 living with friends, in supported accommodation or you're living with grandparents or other family members, you may be considered as 'Independent' through estrangement. Should Student Finance approve your application, your 'household income' will usually be assessed as £0 and you will usually be awarded the maximum maintenance loan for at least the first year of your course. Depending on your circumstances, you can sometimes be granted 'Estranged Student Status' for the duration of your course.

There is more information about how to apply to Student Finance England as an Estranged Student online [here](#). Please note:

1. You must provide evidence of your estrangement from a third party. This could be from your school, social worker, doctor, etc).

2. If you do not have evidence of your estrangement, you should call Student Finance England and ask to speak to an Estrangement Caseworker. You can also contact this service at estranged@slc.co.uk.

If you are independent for another reason (if you are recently bereaved, for example), please speak to Student Finance to discuss your situation. Please also contact lifecycleteam@warwick.ac.uk if you are interested in applying to Warwick so that we can advise you of the support available.

For more information about Student Finance, please go to:

- [UCAS: Tuition Fees & Student Loans](#)
- [Student Finance England](#)
- [Student Finance information for Estranged Students](#)
- [Student Finance information for Care Leavers](#)

4. Support from Warwick for Estranged Students

Students who are independent because they are estranged are able to access a wide range of support from Warwick. ***Please note that some of this support is provisional on providing evidence of your estrangement (see 'Evidence' in section 2 above):***

| Stage | Support |
|---------------------|---|
| Application Stage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support for travel to Open Days/Offer Holder Open Days – please contact lifecycleteam@warwick.ac.uk for more information • A Contextual Offer for successful applicants |
| Undergraduate Study | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support: A Warwick Bursary of up to £3,000 per year, a Widening Participation Bursary of £1,000 per year for Independent Students who are Estranged and a Warwick Scholars Bursary of up to £2,000 per year. • Accommodation: Eligibility for 52-week on-campus accommodation for the duration of your studies (if desired). This accommodation package includes a 40/44-week campus room plus summer accommodation over the vacation and September period. There is more information about Warwick's accommodation online here. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Please note that students are required to move rooms as part of the University's 52-week campus accommodation package. You can find out more about this, and more information about 52-week accommodation costs, in our 52-Week Campus Accommodation FAQs. • Warwick Scholars: Eligibility for the Warwick Scholars Undergraduate Programme. This programme provides students with access to bespoke activities, along with academic, personal and professional development opportunities. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WP Lifecycle Team: Additional support from the WP Lifecycle Team. We offer 1-1 check-ins and signposting support, for example, while you're on course. |
| Postgraduate Study | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warwick Taught Masters Scholarship (WTMSS): Priority eligibility for the WTMSS scholarship scheme. |

Estranged Students also have access to a range of support services open to all students across the University, including:

- A **Personal Tutor** who you can reach out to for additional support while you study at Warwick (we would encourage you to share information about your circumstances with your Personal Tutor so that appropriate support can be offered during your studies; this is particularly important if you are asked to provide evidence of estrangement later in your course)
- **Wellbeing Support**
- **Disability Services**
- Accommodation Support from the **Residential Community Team**
- **Student Advice Centre**

Full details of the support available can be found on our 'Independent students who are Estranged' webpage: <https://warwick.ac.uk/study/outreach/disruptededucation/estranged-students/>

5. Further support

If you have any questions about the support available to Independent Students who are Estranged at Warwick, please contact our WP Lifecycle Team at lifecycleteam@warwick.ac.uk.

The following links may also be helpful:

- **Buttle UK** – a charity providing funding for young people
- **EaCES Handbook** – provides support and signposting to estranged students and care experienced students
- **Rees Foundation** – support for care experienced adults
- **Stand Alone** – a charity supporting estranged students
- **ThisIsUs** – a project and scholarship programme for care leavers and estranged students led by the Unite Foundation