

University of Salford

Salford Estrangement Support Award

Academic year 2020/21

Salford Estrangement Support Award (For Students with No Family Support or Negative Support from Family)

Academic Year 2020/21

1. Award details

The award is to support a student's learning and living costs and is available to UK full-time and part-time students who are struggling financially, have declared themselves as estranged or having a negative or poor relationship with family and were under the age of 25 when starting their current programme of study at the University of Salford.

In Higher Education the word estrangement is used by Student Finance to describe a student with no relationship with either parent (adoptive or biological) and would not be able to provide information for means testing. At Salford we use a wider definition to include little, no or negative support from parents and carers. These students can also apply for this award.

2. Value

Eligible students will be awarded a one-off payment of £500. The £500 payment is in addition to any amount awarded by the [Salford Support Fund](#) from a standard assessment. This will be based on their application to the fund which will look at recent bank statements to assess spending and will take into consideration the need for further funds.

How many?

The Salford Estrangement Support Award is limited to 60 awards of £500 and will be awarded following an assessment by the Salford Support Fund Team.

3. Application process

Application to the Salford Estrangement Support Award will be through the standard [Salford Support Fund](#) application. This can be requested by contacting the askUS enquiries team on 0161 295 0023, option 2 followed by option 3 or visiting the askUS desk at University House. Please ensure that you tick the box on the form confirming your estrangement and upload your evidence.

4. Eligibility

To receive the Salford Estrangement Support Award, students must meet **all** the following criteria:

- Be verified as an estranged student or a student with no/negative support by the Student Experience & Support Team.

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- Be studying a course either delivered by the University on the University's main campus (including Media City) or at a UK partner college: Salford City College or Hopwood Hall.
- Be classed as a Home, European or Channel Islands/Isle of Man for fee purposes (referred to in these terms and conditions as 'home/EU'). The definition of 'home/EU' may be modified for any subsequent academic year.
- Have consented to the sharing of data submitted to Student Finance.

For the 2020/21 academic year students must:

- Be registered and in attendance on a full-time or part-time course being delivered by the University at its main campus either at the University or a UK partner college (Salford City College or Hopwood Hall). This includes those students on a Higher National Certificate (HNC) course, postgraduate students and foundation course (level 3) students.

The award will be given to those who meet the eligibility criteria at the University at the time of allocation (please note: there are only 60 awards available each academic year).

Those not eligible for this award:

- Students who are not classed as home/EU for fee purposes, or whose fee status is unresolved.
- Students who were not ordinarily resident in the UK (i.e. England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) at the start of their course.
- Students studying on a degree apprenticeship course.
- Students already in receipt of the Care Leaver Bursary.
- Students who have been assessed by the Salford Support Fund team as ineligible for financial support due to money mismanagement.

5. Verification of estrangement status

Verification will be undertaken by the Student Experience & Support Team, who will cross-reference information provided through UCAS, Online Registration and Student Finance. When necessary each student who has declared their status will be invited to attend a triage session to verify their status and eligibility for the Salford Estrangement Support Award.

Students who have self-declared as estranged will be asked to provide evidence. In line with recommendations from Standalone, the evidence may take the form of any of the following:

- A letter from a member of staff at school or college which explains that they knew about the difficult relationship whilst the student was at school and their subsequent estrangement.

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- A letter from the student's doctor explaining that they have consistently and historically reported difficulties associated with estrangement.
- A letter from a social worker or local authority that shows they were aware of the student's difficult situation and/or they allocated them a child protection order
- A letter from a counsellor or an organisation such as Stand Alone, National Association of People Abused in Childhood or Karma Nirvana that can vouch for the fact the student has been seeking support for their estrangement or disownment.
- A letter from a housing support worker who may have helped the student find accommodation after they left home. A letter from a member of the clergy, a rabbi or imam explaining that they were aware of the difficulties in the student's family and their subsequent estrangement.
- A statement of incident from the Police that shows any call-outs, arrests or cautions involved in the case.
- Appropriate evidence for any student who is still in contact with their family but has a poor, controlling or negative relationship with them.
- There are additional sources of evidence that would be considered suitable, but if the student is unable to provide the evidence requested, the specialist adviser will discuss this in further detail at a triage session. They should indicate this on the application form and an adviser will be in contact to discuss this further.

6. Use of awards

Awards are not transferable and should be used to assist with living costs.

7. Payment:

- All cash payments are paid by BACS into a UK bank account only.
- The account must be held either solely or jointly in the name of the registered student. Payments cannot be made into the account of another person.
- It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that they provide up-to-date bank details to the University allowing time for the payments to be made.

8. Assessment Criteria (evidence must be provided in online application):

- Students can only apply once per academic year.
- Students will need to provide their rent agreement showing monthly payment amount.

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- Students will need to provide full bank statements for the 3 months immediately prior to submission of an application for ALL of their bank accounts.
- Students will need to provide a personal statement.
- Further evidence may be required as part of the standard Salford Support Fund application.