

Salford Summer Bursary for Estranged Students - Academic Year 2021/22

1. Award details

The £500 cash bursary is to support a student's learning and living costs and is available to UK undergraduate full-time and part-time students verified as estranged and under the age of 25 when starting their course.

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 that is not 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. This bursary is however for those can verify that they fall within the Student Finance definition. There is a separate fund for those that do not (see Salford Estrangement Support Award).

All students who declare their status as estranged either through UCAS or the Online Registration will be eligible for the award provided they have gained independent status with Student Finance for estrangement. This will be verified by the Student Experience and Support Team.

2. Value

Every eligible student will be awarded a £500 cash bursary. Part-time students will have access to the same amount as full-time students, but their awards will be pro-rata over the scheduled minimum duration of their courses.

How many?

All verified estranged students who fit the eligibility criteria will be supported by the University.

3. Eligibility

The £500 bursary is paid out in June of the academic year.

To receive the bursary students must meet all the following criteria:

- Have applied to Student Finance as an estranged student and been successful in qualifying as an independent student through estrangement. If help is needed with this process contact us at studentdiversity@salford.ac.uk.
- Be verified as an estranged student by the Student Experience & Support Team.
- Be studying a UG course either delivered by the University on the University's main campus (including Media City) or at a UK partner college: Salford City College, Bury College or Hopwood Hall.
- Be classed as Home, (England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands, Isle of Man or Republic of Ireland) for fee purposes.

University of Salford

Salford Summer Bursary for Estranged Students

Academic Year 2021/22

- Must have consented to the sharing of data submitted to the Student Loans Company.
- Have met the required progression criteria for their course.
- Must be at the correct level of study.
- Must not have been previously registered with the University for any course except where the student is progressing from a foundation course to the first year of an undergraduate course (level 4).

For the 2021/22 academic year students must:

- Be registered on a full-time or part-time undergraduate course being delivered by the University at its main campus either at the University, a UK partner college AND must be paying the maximum undergraduate fee of £9,250 per year. This includes those students on a Higher National Certificate (HNC) course.

OR

- Be registered and studying a foundation course (level 3) delivered either by the University at its main campus or at a UK partner college: Salford City College, Bury College or Hopwood Hall.

Bursaries will be awarded to those who meet the eligibility criteria at the University at the time of allocation.

Those not eligible for this bursary:

- Students who are not classed as home for fee purposes, or whose fee status is unresolved.
- Students who were not ordinarily resident in the UK (i.e. England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland) or the Republic of Ireland.
- Students studying on a degree apprenticeship course.
- Students in receipt of the Care Leaver Bursary
- Students who have a relationship with their parents / families
- Students deferring entry – subject to awards still being available, students holding offers for a deferred entry will be considered for an award the year they start their course.
- Students who are studying at postgraduate level

4. Verification of estrangement status

Each student who has declared their estrangement will be invited to attend a welcome session to verify their status and discuss their personalised learning support and eligibility for the Summer Bursary.

Verification will be undertaken by the Student Experience & Support Team, who will cross-reference information provided through UCAS, Online Registration & the Student Loans Company. Each student will need to verify their independent status (due to estrangement) with Student Finance to be eligible for the Estrangement Bursary.

Students who have self-declared as estranged will be asked to provide evidence to Student Finance. In line with recommendations from Stand Alone, 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.
- 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 callouts, arrests or cautions involved in the case.
- Completion of the SLC Estrangement Form for self-assessment (with a Student Adviser)

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 the triage session.

5. Use of awards

- Awards are not transferable and should be used to assist with living costs over the summer.

6. 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.
- Any students not claiming their bursary may claim at a later stage in their course, but the payment cannot be back-dated.

7. Withdrawal or freezing of the award

- Changing a course and starting again at level 3 (foundation year) or 4 (first year undergraduate). Students who, having started a course, subsequently change courses starting again at either level 3 or 4, will not be eligible for the award against the new course. The original award will remain, but there will be no second payment against the new course. Once the student progresses onto the next level they will be eligible for the appropriate award to be made for that year of study.
- Temporary breaks in study. Students who arrange with the University to interrupt or leave their course on a temporary basis will have their award frozen until they resume studies.
- Suspension of study. If students are suspended by the University, their award will be frozen until the suspension has been lifted.
- Repeat/extended study. Repeat periods of study and temporary breaks in study that lead to repeat periods of study will not qualify for any additional award. The award entitlement is for the scheduled minimum duration of the course and is not extended for any student.
- Leaving or being removed from the course. Students who leave or are removed from their course will not be expected to repay the amount of their awards which have already been spent. However, the accounts of these students will be closed, and any remaining award will not be available to them and entitlement to all future payments will stop on the date they leave or are removed.
- In accordance with the Student Privacy Policy, the askUS team and the Schools will need to liaise to verify student status and eligibility to receive payment.