

Important information for estranged students

Generally, estrangement means you have 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 their 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 and you are deemed an eligible student, 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 and Maintenance Grant 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?

You can tell us that you're estranged on your student finance application. After you've submitted your application, indicating that you are estranged, we will send you a form (SEF) to complete and another form (IVE) for a third party to complete.

You should provide as much evidence as you can to support your application. Send your evidence to your [local Student Finance office](#).

What else do I need to know?

You will be asked for an update about your circumstances in each academic year.

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 [your local Student Finance NI office](#).

Important Links:

Stand Alone – www.standalone.org