



Independence and Estrangement

Independent Students

If you are classed as an independent student, your own income and that of your spouses or civil partner will be assessed when you make an application for Student Funding. You will be assessed as an independent student for funding purposes if:

- You are aged 25 or over before the start of the academic year
- You are married or in a civil partnership before the start of the academic year
- You have been financially self-reliant for at least three years prior to the start of your course (including any periods of unemployment)
- You have responsibility for one or more children
- You are a care leaver
- Your parents cannot be traced or it is not practical or possible to contact them
- Your parents live outside the European Commission and an income assessment would put them in jeopardy, or it is not reasonably practical for them to send funds to the UK if a contribution were assessed (this may apply to a student who is a refugee)
- Your parents are deceased

Estrangement

You are eligible to be considered for independence on the basis of being 'irreconcilably estranged from your parents' if you have not had verbal or written contact with both of your biological, adoptive parents or your only living parent for a significant period of time and this is unlikely to change.

You will not be able to claim independent status because your parents do not want to give details of their income or refuse to provide financial support to you. In this instance, we recommend you book an appointment to speak with an adviser at the Advice Centre.

Student Finance assessors take each case on its own merits and may make exceptions to the period of no contact where the circumstances are severe and clearly irreconcilable.

More information on estrangement can be found at [Stand Alone](#).



Support Advice Centre

Further guidance

For further guidance on Independence and Estrangement contact the Advice Centre.

- 02380 592 085
- advice@susu.org

You can also visit us in Building 40, Highfield campus. Our opening hours are Monday–Friday 09.00–17.00.

Disclaimer: While care has been taken to ensure that information contained in the Advice Centre publications is true and correct at the time of writing, changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact on the accuracy of this information. The Advice Centre and SUSU cannot accept responsibility for any actions taken as a result of advice given in this publication.
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