

# University of Essex Estranged Bursary 2023-24

This bursary is offered as part of our commitment to accessibility and widening participation for higher education and to support students without family support.

If you're a new or continuing undergraduate or postgraduate student who are estranged from your parents, you could be eligible for a bursary of up to £1,500.

**The deadline to apply for 2023-24 is 24th July 2024**

We also offer a [Care Experienced bursary](#). Being Care Experienced is different to estrangement. If you don't meet the eligibility criteria below, please check the terms and conditions for the Care Experienced Bursary to ensure you apply to the correct fund.

## Terms and Conditions

### Eligibility

Below is a list of the full eligibility criteria for the Estranged Bursary, you must meet all the following criteria to be eligible for an award:

- You are a new or continuing, full time or part-time **registered** student at the University of Essex in academic year 2023-24
- You have been assessed as a Home fee-paying student and are ordinarily resident in the UK (overseas fee-paying students are not eligible)
- You are undertaking undergraduate or postgraduate study

AND

- You are estranged from both parents/carers and are under the age of 25 at the start of the academic year. By estranged we mean that either:
- You have not communicated with either of your biological or adoptive parents for a period of time before your course began

- Your parents cannot be traced or it is not possible, practical, or safe to make contact with them
- Your parents have significant mental or physical health problems which prevent you from contacting them
- Both of your biological or adoptive parents are deceased

### **\*What is “Ordinary Residence”?**

For the purposes of assessing eligibility for the bursary, you must have been ordinarily resident in the UK, for the three-year period prior to commencing your course. Ordinarily resident means that you must have been habitually, normally and lawfully, residing in the UK, from choice, for the specified period. For example, the three-year period for courses starting in October 2023 is calculated as 1 September 2020 to 1 September 2023. Temporary absences during this three-year period may be permitted at the discretion of the relevant University officer. Students may be asked to provide documentary evidence to determine ordinary residence and an assessment of whether a student meets the ordinary residence criteria will be made by the Funding Team, and their decision will be final.

### **Students who are not eligible**

The following students are not eligible for this award regardless of meeting the above criteria:

- Students who have been assessed as an overseas fee-paying student
- Students who are not in attendance, and on an assessment only programme
- Students whose course is sponsored by an employer
- Students on a distance learning programme
- Students on unsubstantial part-time or short courses
- Students who are studying through a University of Essex Partner (e.g. Kaplan, University of Essex Online, Tavistock, etc.)
- Students on Higher/Degree Apprenticeship courses

### **Evidence**

To support your application, you **MUST** provide evidence you are estranged from both parents/carers.

You need to provide evidence of ‘genuine estrangement’. This can be any one of the following:

- Letter from your social or Council support worker
- Letter from a doctor that knows your situation

- Police report showing any related incidents
- Letter from a teacher or university/college lecturer that knows your situation
- Letter from a 'person of good standing in the community' (for example a solicitor, religious leader or a counsellor, who is not related to you)
- Letter from a housing organisation (if you were trying to find alternative accommodation)
- Letter of support from a counselling or similar organisation who may have been helping with your estrangement
- A court order, showing you were trying to distance yourself from your parents
- A copy of a Confirmation of Estrangement form (SFE form) that has been submitted to and accepted by SFE.
- Email confirmation from SFE that you have been assessed as an independent student on the basis of estrangement.

*Note: you will not be considered estranged simply on the basis that you live separately from your parents, have recently fallen out with your parents, or your parents are unwilling to complete income assessment forms or contribute towards your student finance.*

If you are unable to provide this evidence, you should contact the Funding Team for advice [funding@essex.ac.uk](mailto:funding@essex.ac.uk)

## **How to apply**

**The deadline to apply for the bursary for 2023-24 is 24th July 2024**

To apply for the Estranged Bursary, you will need to do the following:

1. Ensure that you meet the eligibility criteria above
2. Carefully read these Terms and Conditions
3. Register for the [Blackbullion](#) online money management website if you do not already have an account
4. Click the 'Funds' tab and select 'Estranged Bursary'
5. Follow the instructions to complete the declaration form, upload the required evidence and submit your application

## Assessment and payment

- If eligible, you will receive a bursary of £1,500 if you are studying full time, or £750 if you are studying part time.
- For students who are awarded the bursary before May 2024, an email will be sent to your Essex email account in May 2024, requesting that you enter your bank details into My Essex so payment can be made. Once you have entered your bank details, payment will be received within 5-7 days.
- For students who are awarded the bursary after May 2024, you will be paid via BACS to your nominated bank account as stated in your application 5-7 days after being awarded the bursary.
- Payment must be claimed by the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2024.

## Can I hold this with other awards?

The Estranged Bursary cannot be held in conjunction with the Care Experienced and Refugee Bursary offered as part of the [University Access and Participation Plan](#) funding.

With the exception of the above, Estranged Bursary can be held in conjunction with other University awards that you may be eligible for, including financial support.

## Appeals

If you are dissatisfied with the decision of your outcome of your application, you can appeal within 10 working days of your outcome email from Blackbullion. Appeals should be sent to the [Funding Team](#).

Your appeal will be considered at the discretion of the Student Services Manager or their nominee.

## Resolution of disputes

Acceptance of the Estranged Bursary constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions. Registered students should contact the [Funding Team](#) in the first instance for guidance regarding this award. In cases not covered by the above terms and conditions, or where a student claims exceptional circumstances, or disputes a decision not to make payments due under this scheme, final appeals on decisions regarding eligibility must be made via the [Student Complaints process](#). The Academic Registrar or their nominee will review the case and their decision will be final.

**NOTE: These terms and conditions apply to the Estranged Bursary awarded to students for the academic year 2023-24. The University of Essex reserves the right to update these terms and conditions as necessary.**