

LSBU Estranged Students Bursary 2025/26

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LSBU signed the Stand-Alone Pledge in 2020 as a commitment to improve services for students who are estranged from their family.

LSBU offer an Estranged Student Bursary of £1000 (pro-rated for part-time students).

This is paid in two instalments of **£500 in November and February** for the length of your course or until you reach 25 years.

Eligible students are invited via their LSBU email to apply towards the end of October of each academic year.

Who's eligible?

An estranged student is someone who no longer has contact with their parents or legal guardians, due to a permanent breakdown in their relationship. They are under the age of 25 years.

To be considered irreconcilably estranged from your parents, you won't have had any written or verbal contact with either parent and this is unlikely to change. Usually, for a period of at least twelve months, but we will consider all cases.

<https://www.sfengland.slc.co.uk/estrangement/>

If you have been verified as estranged, each academic year of study you must meet the criteria below to be eligible for the Estranged Student Bursary:

- Home students
- Aged under 25 at the start of each academic year
- Fully enrolled on an undergraduate course
- Applied for your full student support entitlement from Student Finance (or if you choose not to, can show you would be eligible)

Note: You will not be considered estranged simply on the basis that you live separately from your parents.

How do I apply?

If you have notified:

- UCAS or Student Finance
- The LSBU Personal Development Plan 'PDP'
- Contacted Student Advice via MyAccount

You should be **invited automatically in early November**. If in doubt, please don't hesitate to get in touch (see FAQs).

There is a short on-line application form via www.Blackbullion.com, and some evidence will need to be uploaded:

- A copy of your Student Finance England entitlement letter that identifies you have been verified as being Estranged by SFE
- And/or evidence of working with a member of the Student Advice Team to become verified

FAQs

I'm not sure if I am an 'estranged student'

We understand that this is very much a higher education term to describe a student's personal circumstances and life journey. Whilst we use the term 'estranged student', as widely recognised by the universities, we aim to do so respectfully and acknowledge its limitations as a definition.

To be considered irreconcilably estranged from your parents, you will be under the age of 25 years and won't have had any written or verbal contact with either parent and this is unlikely to change.

[Estrangement | Student Finance England \(slc.co.uk\)](https://www.slsc.co.uk)

If you haven't been assessed as an estranged student by Student Finance England but think you meet the criteria, please get in touch with the Student Advice Team for support.

I have been assessed by Student Finance as 'independent' but not estranged, do I qualify?

The Estranged Student Bursary is also open for students whose parents are deceased, and on a case-by-case basis for other Student Finance 'independent' categories. If in doubt, please get in touch with Student Advice.

Who do you share my information with?

The Student Advice Team at LSBU are the main point of contact for Student Support Bursary recipients, including students estranged from family.

Student Advice are part of the Student Success department, and all personal information shared with this department is held securely. Please see [Data Protection | London South Bank University \(lsbu.ac.uk\)](https://www.lsbu.ac.uk) for more or ask an Advisor.

With permission from a student, we are happy to discuss or share information with relevant support teams at the university, and would encourage students to declare on occasion, for example the Accommodation Team if a student lives in halls of residence and would like to access the 52-week contract offer.

Do you offer the bursary for Postgraduate study?

No, at this time the award is only for undergraduate students. If you are a Postgraduate student estranged from family, please check out the FAQs for more support and make a confidential appointment with our support teams for more help, including access to the university Student Support Fund (hardship fund).

Do you offer the bursary for Apprenticeship study?

No. For Apprentices, there are government bursary schemes, please click through for more information: [Apprenticeships funding - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

What happens if I turn 25 before the end of my course?

At this time, the bursary is for students estranged from family, as defined by the Office for Students, UCAS and Student Finance England. We cannot offer students who are 25 or over at the start of their academic year.

However, we recognise that estrangement from family and its impacts do not stop at 25. Therefore, we will continue to prioritise you for other financial support including the LSBU Student Support Fund (hardship fund).

We also encourage you to access any other elements of the LSBU support package that is helpful for you for the duration of your studies, no upper age limit applied.

Do you offer the bursary for students repeating a year?

Yes, if other eligibility criteria are met. Though multiple repeat years will be looked at on a case-by-case basis and the bursary is pro-rated if part-time or completing modules rather than a full year.

I've only just heard about the bursary, now it's part the way through the year

Please get in touch.

Whilst we may not be able to offer the full years bursary, you will be eligible for at least one instalment, and we will consider allocations mid-year on a case-by-case basis.

Do you offer support during the summer/graduation?

If we can, we will, but it is not guaranteed.

Each year the Student Advice Team strives to offer support funds as a priority to Student Support Bursary recipients. As such, it might be possible to offer a small summer award for students in between academic years or towards graduation costs.

If a summer support award can be made, students will be contacted in June each year. If you do not hear anything and you feel you need further financial support, please contact Student Advice via MyAccount.

What else is on offer for estranged students at LSBU?

London South Bank University has been ranked third in the world for reducing inequality in the prestigious [Times Higher Impact Rankings 2024](#). As such, we are continually seeking to improve our offer for students estranged from their family.

We strive to be collaborative with our students and would welcome students with care experience to join our monthly drop-in, as well as book a one-to-one appointment.

For an overview of the services we offer, please look at our webpages:

[Support for independent students \(care leavers and estranged students\) | London South Bank University \(lsbu.ac.uk\)](#)

Students will also be emailed by the Student Advice Team via supportfunds@lsbu.ac.uk throughout the year.

If you would like to discuss the offer or any of the above with someone, please arrange a confidential appointment with the Student Advice Team:

[How can I book or cancel an appointment with support teams using MyAccount?](#)

During your appointment, the Advisor will be able to recommend suitable support services – for example, from LSBU or Student Finance England, to ensure you get the help that's right for you.