

Student Finance England (SFE) assess how much money you are entitled to by looking at the household income of your biological or adoptive parents or your only living parent. The household income determines what financial support you can get every year while you're studying.

If you live with another relative who supports you financially, like a grandparent, you would still be expected to ask your biological or adoptive parents to provide their financial information, unless the Grandparent or relative is legally responsible for you. In this case, we'll need their financial information.

It may not be possible or safe to ask your parents for their income details if you consider yourself estranged from them. SFE considers estrangement an exception to how they would normally assess students. These students will be awarded full financial support without assessing the income of their parents.

If you're struggling to get evidence of your family estrangement, you can seek support.

You can:

- Speak to teacher/personal/ careers adviser at school
- Get in touch with a Student Adviser and or Care Leaver Lead at your first choice university. Details of many of these can be found on the Stand Alone site : www.standalone.org.uk/students/supportatyouruniversity
- If you are finding any of the above processes stressful **please remember there are several charity organisations available should you need to talk to someone or you could** call the Samaritans free on **116 123** or e-mail jo@samaritans.org They are there to listen 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and are there to support you.

SFE has a specific form if you are estranged. This allows you the option to ask the student services/ wellbeing advisor at your college or university to confirm your estrangement. You can do this if you're unable to find an independent person who already knows the details of your estrangement. Estrangement can take place at any time prior and during your studies.

You can access the new forms through their online account once they have applied for student finance.