

Providing proof of estrangement

In order to be considered independent by the Student Loans Company (SLC) and, therefore, assessed based on their own household income rather than their parents', students have to provide proof that they are irreconcilably estranged from their family. This can be a long and emotionally trying process. The assessment can take up to six weeks to be processed and require students to submit evidence that might be distressing to gather.

The [following guide](#) outlines the documents required by Student Finance as evidence of estrangement. Students are required to submit at least one supporting statement form an independent person with good standing within the community who has known the students for a substantial period (e.g. a member of staff at school, a social worker, a doctor etc.).

Evidence of estrangement has normally to be submitted each academic year and students should be encouraged to contact their school-specific [student support contact](#) who can guide them through the process as well as the [charity StandAlone](#) which offers a variety of resources to help.