
Admission of students under the age of 18**Information for applicants**

Every year, a small number of students who are under the age of 18 join our University. Our University is an adult environment, and all students are treated equally. However, the law draws an important line at age 18 and there are a number of issues which we would wish to bring to your attention.

Legal Status

As a general rule under UK law, a minor is unable to enter into a contract. However, this does not apply to the provision of educational services, and therefore you will be able to register personally with our University and apply and enter into a legal contract in the same way as a student aged 18 or over.

Parental responsibilities

Our University is not able to take on the usual rights, responsibilities and authority that parents have in relation to a child, and it will not act *in loco parentis* in relation to students who are under the age of 18. Our University will need to seek parental consent for the admission of a student under 18, as part of the process of admission.

University Accommodation

You are entitled to apply for accommodation through the Accommodation Office. All first-year undergraduates, irrespective of age, are guaranteed the offer of accommodation providing that they meet certain conditions. Even where the required conditions are not met, our University will still try to meet any request for University accommodation in the case of students who are under 18. We will also endeavour to ensure that the accommodation offered has easy access to a member of support staff in accommodation, or to a 24 hour staffed reception facility.

Students who will be under the age of 18 at the point of admission can only book accommodation through the Accommodation Office (rather than online). You are not eligible to enter into a legal tenancy contract for accommodation until you turn 18 and in this scenario, the University (as the landlord) provisionally agrees to grant a 'tenancy agreement', but with that agreement operating as a 'licence to occupy' until your 18th birthday, after which time a tenancy will arise by operation of law. A Guarantor would be required to underwrite the Tenant's obligations in the tenancy agreement as set out in an agreement of Guarantee and indemnity.

CAS / Visa

For students requiring a Tier 4 visa, the decision to admit or not needs to be taken before a 'Confirmation of Acceptance for Study' (CAS) is issued, (and early enough to allow for the CAS/visa application process to take place). It should be noted that obtaining a Biometric Residence Permit for a student aged under 18 will require a 'responsible adult' to accompany. Further information is available from the Tier 4 compliance team.

Other Special Arrangements

Our University assumes that all students being admitted to study here will have a similar level of educational competence and personal maturity, and that those under the age of 18 will not wish to be singled out for special academic treatment, unless we are advised otherwise

The University does, however, recognise that it owes an enhanced duty of care to those students under the age of 18 but will in so far as possible seek to treat such students as adults and will likewise expect students under the age of 18 to act responsibly and with maturity.

Our University offers a wide range of support facilities for all its students, and there are many staff members on hand to help should problems arise. If you feel that you may require additional support or if there are any support issues due to age or any other personal circumstance which you would like to bring to our attention, you should notify us in advance where possible or as soon as possible after such circumstances arise.

Specific courses

Some specific courses cannot admit students under the age of 18, for example where professional bodies do not permit this. This list includes Physiotherapy, Dietetics, Speech and Language Therapy, Adult Nursing, Mental Health Nursing, Social Work, Nutrition (where applicants will not be 18 by 1st January), Occupational Therapy, BA (Hons) Primary Education (Early Years 3-7) with recommendation for QTS, and BA (Hons) Primary Education (5-11) with recommendation for QTS.

Placements

Particular course-by-course arrangements may need to apply to those courses with placements, especially where those placements take place before the student turns 18 and in such circumstances it may not be possible for those under 18 to enrol on a number of courses due to placement restrictions.

Field trips / Residentials

Where a course has a residential placement (and in some cases a field trip), we are unable to permit a student under the age of 18 to attend in accordance with our Safeguarding policy. Where the activity contributes to progression on the course, an alternative assessment, such as a piece of written work, will be completed instead. If you are unsure whether your course contains a residential placement or field trip, further information can be found on the online prospectus: <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-courses/>

Alcohol

The law in the UK prohibits persons under the age of 18 from buying alcohol in licensed premises, or to have alcohol bought for them by another for consumption in a bar or other licensed premises. Our University cannot condone illegal behaviour and action may be taken against any students who break the law in this way, through the disciplinary processes.

Relationships with staff

Under the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000, it is a criminal offence for any person in a position of trust (which may include members of University staff) to engage in sexual activity with someone who is under 18.

Child protection

As a matter of law in England, a person under the age of 18 is a child. Our University will report any suspicions or allegations of abuse of children to the appropriate Social Services officer. Any such suspicions or allegations will be reported to the Secretary & Registrar who will contact the appropriate authorities.

Data Protection

The Data Protection Act (1998) prohibits our University from disclosing any information about a student's progress, either academic or social, to parents or anyone else without the student's express consent. This applies to students of all ages, including under those under the age of 18.

It is our University's usual policy to deal with students (with whom it has a contractual relationship) and not with parents. This approach will also apply to students who are under the age of 18. Our University will therefore correspond with students, not parents.

Health Issues

From the age of 16, patients in the UK are able to give consent for most medical/dental treatment without a parent's knowledge and such treatment is confidential. There are circumstances where those aged between 16-17, who have refused to receive medical treatment, can have this refusal overridden by a parent or guardian.

Emergency situations

Emergency contact details of a parent or guardian must be provided by students or parents prior to the student's arrival at our University.

In some emergency circumstances, where a parent or guardian cannot be contacted in time, the University will act on medical advice and do what is in the best interests of the student aged under 18 and the University requires the consent of a parent or guardian to exercise parental permission in such instances.

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