



## SECRETARIAT

### ACADEMIC POLICY

<b>NAME OF ACADEMIC POLICY:</b>	Policy for Students Under the Age of 18
<b>PURPOSE OF POLICY AND WHOM IT APPLIES TO:</b>	The policy outlines the University's approach to students under the age of eighteen. The term 'student' also includes apprentices
<b>RESPONSIBLE BOARD/ COMMITTEE WITH ROUTE OF APPROVAL:</b>	Education & Student Life Committee
<b>LEAD STAFF MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS UPDATE:</b>	Academic Registrar
<b>PERSONS CONSULTED IN DEVELOPING POLICY:</b>	Discussed and approved by members of the Education & Student Life Committee on 11 March 2015
<b>POLICY FINALLY APPROVED BY:</b>	Academic Board on 16 June 2015
<b>DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:</b>	June 2015
<b>DETAIL OF DISSEMINATION:</b>	The new Policy was circulated in July 2015 and is available on the Secretariat's portal.
<b>PROPOSED DATE OF REVIEW</b>	July 2024
<b>SECRETARIAT OFFICER – MAIN CONTACT:</b>	Officer to Education & Student Life Committee
<b>DATE:</b>	January 2023



## Policy for Students under the Age of 18

### Introduction

The University welcomes a diverse student population. Occasionally this means students under the age of 18 are enrolled; however, the University is primarily an adult environment and treats all students as independent individuals, regardless of their age.

### Support

The usual personal and academic support arrangements are available to students under the age of 18.

### Parental/Carers Responsibility

- The University will not act in loco parentis.
- Where a person must be aged 18 or over to enter into a contract, the University requires a student's parents/guardian to honour all obligations entered into by the student while under the age of 18.
- Up-to-date emergency contact details of parents/carers must be provided to the University by the student.
- The University has a contractual arrangement with a student rather than their parents, accordingly the University will correspond in all matters directly with students not parents/carers.

### International Students

- As sponsors of a child under the age of 18, the University of Lincoln will keep a copy of the letter from the child's parents or legal guardian, or just one parent if that parent has sole legal responsibility for the child. This should consent to the arrangements for the child's application, travel, reception and care arrangements in the UK. Children aged 16 and 17 have the legal right to live independently in the UK, and may make their own arrangements for accommodation, but they need the consent of their parent(s)/legal guardian to do this and to travel to the UK (if applying from overseas).
- International students who are under the age of 18 and do not have a parent or legal guardian based in the UK, are required to inform the University of a UK based guardian who will be the point of contact in case of an emergency. The guardian can be a nominated relative or friend living in the UK, or a guardian can be appointed through an organisation offering legal guardianship services.

### Accommodation

Residential accommodation offered by the University and its partners is generally intended for adult use and special arrangements cannot be made for students under the age of 18. The University and its partners do not offer any warden controlled, supported or monitored accommodation.

### Student Life

- It is illegal for alcohol to be bought or sold by individuals under the age of 18. The University will take reasonable steps to ensure the law is upheld within its own licensed premises but cannot undertake to supervise individual students.

- The University is not able to take any additional responsibility for a student under the age of 18 in relation to optional or compulsory programme activities such as excursions and field trips.
- All students under the age of 18 who enrol at the University will meet with a member of staff within Student Services who will discuss their rights and responsibilities, including how to keep safe whilst living and studying in an adult environment. All students will be provided with information regarding the support services and how to access support.
- All students under the age of 18 will be contacted on a monthly basis by Student Services in order to ensure support is offered on a regular basis and welfare concerns are addressed at the earliest opportunity.
- The University recognises the vulnerability of under 18s in relation to online safety and monitors and blocks online access from University devices for all students in this category where the content is deemed to be inappropriate, ensuring any concerns are escalated to the University's Safeguarding Team.
- It is unlawful to supply (e.g. sell or lend) an age-restricted video recording to a person under the age restriction. Consequently, library staff will not lend DVDs/Blu-ray or other video recordings classified as adult to students who are under 18.

### **Students' Union**

Whilst consent may be given by a parent or guardian for the sharing of personal data of a student under 18 with the University of Lincoln Students' Union (ULSU) in order that the individual may become a member of ULSU, a person under the age of 18 does not have full legal capacity with respect to certain activities. Their participation in certain activities, such as holding office for a club, society, or the Students' Union itself will be limited. Students, Parents or Guardians should contact the Students' Union if they require more information.

### **Child Protection**

As a matter of law in England, a person under the age of 18 is a child. The University will report any suspicions or allegations of abuse/harm of children to the appropriate Social Services officer and/or the Police. Any such suspicions or allegations will be reported to the Safeguarding Team as per the University Safeguarding Policy who will contact the appropriate authorities. Information regarding how the University safeguards students can be found [here](#)

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

### **Data Protection**

Whilst under 18s are regarded as children by law, they still have the right for information about them not to be disclosed without their consent. This means that the University is not able to give information to parents or guardians regarding the student's progress or *most* personal circumstances, without obtaining that prior consent.