Under 18's Policy

Although most students at the University are over the age of 18, we welcome younger applicants with the aptitude to thrive here and we treat all our students as independent, mature adults, regardless of age. However, under 18's living in England are considered by law to be children, which means we have additional responsibilities towards younger students.

To ensure we fulfil this duty of care, we have made special arrangements for younger students.

1 Under-18 Parental Consent form

Parents or guardians are required to complete the Under-18 parental consent form agreeing to the conditions listed below among others.

The form must be completed and submitted before registration (and before issuance of a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies [CAS] where applicable).

2 Parental responsibility

Offers are made on the condition that parents or guardians accept that the University cannot assume parental responsibility for students under the age of 18.

3 Pastoral care

When students arrive at Bristol, they will be assigned a personal tutor, who will guide the student through their years at the University. The student will receive appropriate pastoral care, and a comprehensive range of specialist services will be available for anyone needing additional support.

4 Alcohol

We take reasonable steps to ensure that the law is observed on licensed premises on the University precinct, but ultimate responsibility lies with parents or guardians. Younger students therefore need to be aware that it is illegal for under 18's to buy or be sold alcohol.

5 Holding positions of responsibility

Students under 18 are not permitted to hold positions of responsibility, whether in external organisations or in University clubs or associations.

6 Trusted Contact

Parents who live overseas must nominate a UK-based guardian for any under-18 student attending the University in case of an emergency.

The trusted contact should be a responsible adult you trust aged over 18, who has a good understanding of the student's circumstances (including any relevant health conditions, previous behaviours and prior support needs), is willing and able to act in the student's best interests and provide the appropriate support if contacted.

The nominated person must be suitable and cannot be another student or someone who is temporarily resident in the UK. Additional information can be found on the Under-18 parental consent form.

It is the responsibility of the student's parent/guardian to ensure that the person they nominate as their trusted contact is aware of their nomination and is willing to undertake this role.

7 Accommodation

Students under 18 who firmly accept an offer from the University will be eligible for accommodation under the terms of the accommodation guarantee. We will give particular consideration to which type of accommodation is most appropriate for under 18s.

8 Applicants who require a Student visa

UKVI requirements apply where an international student will be under 18 at the point of admission to the University. In these circumstances, we must hold the necessary information, and neither the student nor their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) can opt out of providing it. Most of this information is requested from the student's parent/legal guardian via the Under-18 parental consent form and includes:

- Consent for the student to apply for a relevant UK Visa and travel to the UK to study independently along with the arrangements relating to travel, reception, and care in the UK.
- Their contact details as well as details of a nominated guardian or other appropriate responsible person in the UK to be the applicant's trusted contact.
- A separate letter from both parents or; one parent, if that parent has sole legal responsibility, to support the applicant's visa application. More information on this letter can be found on the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) website.
- Agreement to additional declarations which refer to other relevant sections of this policy.

Applicants aged under 18 years can only be issued a CAS once they have provided the necessary information.

For applicants aged 15 years or younger, it must be noted that the University cannot act as a Visa Sponsor through issuing a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS). This is because applicants aged 15 years or younger require a visa under the Child route - for which the University does not hold the necessary license.

9 Staff responsibilities

If a student under the age of 18 accepts an offer from the University, we will inform all the relevant departmental staff of their responsibilities under the University's Safeguarding policy and any associated guidance, http://www.bristol.ac.uk/secretary/legal/safeguarding/