

ESCP Business School

(London Campus)

Policy for students under the age of 18 years

1. Introduction

The School may admit students who are under the age of 18 years. In most cases this will be a temporary situation, as the student will be approaching their eighteenth birthday.

The School is an adult environment and treats all its students as independent, mature individuals and students who are under the age of 18 years will be treated in the same way. The School will correspond directly with students under 18 years of age, rather than parents or legal guardians.

The School recognises that anyone under the age of 18 living in England is legally a child and that some legal restrictions apply to this group e.g. prohibition on the consumption of alcohol on licensed premises.

2. Parental responsibilities

The School 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 years.

International students aged 16 or 17 must obtain the written consent of a parent or legal guardian that they can live and travel independently when applying for a UK student visa.

Parents/legal guardians must complete and sign the appended Consent Form. We ask that parents/guardians fill in the consent form having read the document above so that the School can offer appropriate support and safeguarding for students who are under 18 and may be either more vulnerable or not have the same rights older students. In signing the form the parent or guardian will be accepting the arrangements outlined and responsibilities on of the student, themselves and the School.

3. Contracts

A person of 16 or 17 has the status to enter into necessary contracts for education and accommodation but until their 18th birthday will not be legally competent to enter into all legal contracts. The School reserves the right, where a person must be aged 18 or over to be legally competent to enter into a contract with the School, to require a student's parents to honour all obligations (under any contracts with the School) that the student enters into prior to his or her 18th birthday.

4. Internet Access

Parents and guardians of students under 18 should note that internet access is unrestricted at the School. It is not possible for the School to limit access to any particular sites or categories of information. Students under 18 will be expected to observe the same rules and regulations about acceptable use of the internet as all other students.

5. Field trips

Programme(s) may involve compulsory or optional field trips, excursions or other periods of study away from the School. Subject to the School's duties under health & safety law, the School is not able to take any additional responsibility for a student who is under the age of 18 years in relation to such activities.

6. Social Activity

Students are treated as adults and are expected to attend teaching activity and to both live and study independently without formal supervision. The School environment provides peer groups of mixed group adults, none of whom will undergo criminal record checks. Participating in social activity on and off campus is at the discretion of the students and the School is not able to take additional responsibility for a student who is under the age of 18 years in relation to such activities.

7. Alcohol & Tobacco

It is illegal for alcohol or tobacco to be sold to or bought by individuals who are under the age of 18 years. The School will take reasonable steps to seek to ensure that the law is not broken in relation to licensed premises under the School's control but cannot undertake to supervise any individual student.

8. Holding office

Students who are under 18 years are not allowed to hold office, for example, they may not be secretary or treasurer to a sports club or other students' association.

9. Evening lectures

Like most higher education institutions, the School operate extended teaching hours so lectures and contact time with tutors could be anytime between 9am and 9pm. The School cannot undertake to supervise any student travelling home during these extended hours.

10. Relationships with staff

The School believes the professional relationship between a student and a member of staff is an important part of the student's educational development. To ensure that students maximise their learning experience, it is vital that trust and confidence exist between staff and students and this could be jeopardised if a member of staff has a romantic/intimate relationship with a student.

Under the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000, it is a criminal offence for any person in a position of trust (which includes members of School staff) to engage in sexual activity with someone who is under 18 years. It is the School's view that any sexual relationship with a student under the age of 18 years would constitute gross misconduct by the member of staff.

11. Health

Students who are under 18 should ensure that they are registered with a GP if they are living away from home. Parents or guardians are responsible for ensuring that the School has been informed of any special needs or requirements.

12. Child Protection/Safeguarding

The School has a duty to protect individuals under the age of 18 from abuse and is obliged to report any suspicions or allegations of abuse of children to the appropriate Social Services Officer, as set out in the Safeguarding Policy.

13. Parental Consent

The School's policy is that it deals with students and not with parents or guardians. This approach will apply equally to students who are under the age of 18. The School will therefore correspond with students, and not with parents or guardians, unless the School receives express written permission from the student or there is a medical, criminal or similar emergency.

14. Emergency contact

Students who have not attained the age of 18 can have their refusal to receive medical treatment overridden by parents. However, please note that a child from the age of 16 is entitled to consent to medical treatment, and that such consent cannot be overruled by parents.

15. Notification

Relevant staff will be notified of any student who will be under the age of 18 years on entry to the School.

16. If you do not have a contact in the UK

If you do not have a contact in the UK who can act as a guardian then you will need to make arrangements to obtain a guardian, before completing and returning the Under 18 Consent Form and include details of the guardian on the form. There are guardianship agencies available on the [AEGIS](#) website which provides a list. Please ensure that the agency you agree to work with has experience of supervising University/higher education students as many agencies are aimed at children staying at boarding schools which is very different.