

Under 18's Guidance – Student in Residential Accommodation owned or managed by Teesside University

Introduction

This Under 18's guidance will apply to students housed in university owned or managed accommodation whose 18th birthday falls after the first day of the Accommodation Contract of their year of entry to the University. The guidance will not apply once the student reaches their 18th birthday or for those who apply before their 18th birthday but reach 18 before, they arrive.

This guidance does not apply to persons under 18 who use University Residences during vacation time using a booking made as part of a visiting group.

Teesside University has a duty of care to all its students. In the case of students joining the University before their 18th birthday, this duty is enhanced as such students are regarded as children under UK law. In order that families can be assured of the University's commitment to the safety and well-being of younger students, this document has been produced as a guide to the level of care provided by Teesside University within University Residences.

Please note, if the student is under 16 at the time of admission to the University, the Parent or Guardian is required to provide residential accommodation.

Students and their families should bear in mind that Teesside University is an adult environment. Students are expected to behave like adults and to assume an adult level of responsibility. Students are expected to have the necessary skills to study and live independently alongside people from a wide variety of backgrounds. This potentially may be particular challenging for younger students.

The University does not act in loco parentis i.e. it is not in the same position as a parent and does not accept that level of responsibility for its students. For this reason, if a student's parents are not resident in the UK, it will be necessary for them to appoint a guardian in the UK and provide contact details for this person and their informed consent to acting in this capacity.

Teesside University requires parents or guardians to act as guarantors (i.e. to agree to pay any sums agreed under a contract if the student fails to do so.)

If the student fails to pay any sums agreed under the accommodation contract it will be necessary to disclose this information to their parents and also possibly a debt collection agency.

Although under the law those under 18 are regarded as children, they still have the right under the Data Protection Act for information about them not to be disclosed without their consent. We therefore will ask all student under 18 to allow us to share information with their parent or guardian by signing the Accommodation Consent form for a student under 18 years old staying in University Residences.

The Accommodation Consent form is Appendix 1 attached.

Our Accommodation

Students who are under 18 will be accommodated differently to other students within University accommodation in as much as they will only be offered a room in University Halls of Residence on Campus. They are subject to the same eligibility criteria and allocation although their age is taken into account when allocating.

All students, whatever their age, moving into university accommodation are required to sign an accommodation contract to accept the terms and conditions of the accommodation. This contract clearly states the level of behaviour and the sanctions which could be imposed if the student does not adhere to them.

Teesside University also has a Student handbook which outlines essential information about the University's services, facilities and regulations, and directs you to further information where appropriate

<http://www.tees.ac.uk/sections/stud/handbook/index.cfm>

Support and Guidance

The campus is essentially an adult environment, and students are not fully supervised during their free time in the accommodation. However, University Halls of Residences on campus have a team of Student Wardens on duty from 7pm until 6am every day to support students with any issue they may have. Someone from the Warden Team will make arrangements to speak to the student on the day of their arrival to introduce the Wardens, show them where the Wardens live and also give the student their contact details should they need them. The Warden will also give the student the details of how to contact the Accommodation Office.

The student will also be encouraged to visit the Student and Library Services department. Information on their services can be found at

<https://www.tees.ac.uk/sections/studentsupport/>

All students are encouraged to register with a General Practitioner (GP) on their arrival.

<http://www.nhs.uk/Service-Search/GP/LocationSearch/4>

All students are encouraged to register with a dentist upon their arrival.

<http://www.nhs.uk/Service-Search/Dentist/LocationSearch/3>

Students who are 16 or over have the legal capacity to consent to medical treatment, Parents/guardians must be aware that the University therefore cannot provide any consent for emergency medical treatment for a student. Students who are under 18 may have any refusal to consent to life-saving treatment overridden by a parent, but the views of the child must be taken into account. Emergency contact details must therefore be provided to the University prior to the student's arrival. In such circumstances, decisions about treatment and treatment itself will be a matter for the medical practitioners.

If a student or staff member has any concern about the welfare of an under 18 student, these should be reported to the Director of Campus Services in the first instance.

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the Teesside University Accommodation Consent Form for a student under 18 years old staying in University Residences and should be signed by both the student and the parent/guardian (Appendix 2) before the student takes up residence at Teesside University.

Teesside University Accommodation Consent form for a student under 18 years old staying in University Residences

If your child decides to accept the offer of a place at Teesside University, please ensure the declarations below are completed, signed and returned with the acceptance of the offer.

Parent / Guardian

1. I understand that Teesside University is not acting in loco parentis.
2. I consent to Teesside University acting on medical advice in the best interests of the child to authorise emergency medical treatment if it is not possible to contact either myself or the appointed guardian.
3. I agree to accept liability for my child/ward's debts to Teesside University and act as their Financial Guarantor.
4. I understand and accept that Teesside University is an adult environment and that my son/daughter will generally be treated as an adult.
5. I understand and accept that while studying at Teesside University my child/ward will be subject to UK law and the rules of the University.
6. I understand and accept that Teesside University cannot release information relating to my child/ward's progress, either academic or social, without my son/daughter giving the University express consent to release the information unless the University believes them to be a risk to themselves or others.

I (name) _____ Parent/Guardian (please delete as applicable)

of (name of student) _____

declare that I have read and accept the above conditions.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

I agree to act as Guardian and Financial Guarantor to the above named student.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Student

I (name) _____ agree that Teesside University may:

- ✓ Contact my Parent/Guardian to discuss any matters pertaining to me.
- ✓ Disclose any personal data relevant to the pursuance of unpaid fees or charges.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Appendix 2

Under 18's Guidance – Student in Residential Accommodation owned or managed by Teesside University acceptance sheet

Student Declaration:

I agree that I have received Teesside University's Under 18's Guidance – Student in Residential Accommodation owned or managed by Teesside University document and understand how this relates to me until I reach the age of 18.

Student name (please print) _____

Signed _____

Date of Birth _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Declaration:

I agree that I have received Teesside University's Under 18's Guidance – Student in Residential Accommodation owned or managed by Teesside University document and understand how this relates to my child/ward until they reach the age of 18.

Name (please print) _____

Signed _____

Relationship to student _____

Date _____