

# Under 18's Policy

## Part 1: Admission and registration

- Students registering at the College should normally have attained the age of 16 by the date of registration. We may exceptionally admit applicants under the age of 16. Applications from individuals who would be under the age of 16 at the date of registration will be considered by the College and University Partner on a case-by-case basis and determined on their own individual circumstances and merits and the University may require that admission is subject to the application of specific entry criteria and/or conditions.
- It is important that individuals under the age of 18 and their parents/guardians understand that the College and University community and campus is predominantly an adult environment. The College and University are not able to take on the rights and responsibilities of parents/guardians in relation to under 18s, and we do not act in loco parentis in relation to students who are under the age of 18, even when they are provided with our accommodation.
- Regardless of age, we expect all students to assume adult levels of responsibility, and to have the necessary skills to study and live independently, without supervision, and to conduct themselves at all times as responsible members of the community, to comply with the College and University's rules and to respect the rights of others. Whilst both the College and University provide extensive academic and pastoral support for students, we do not normally provide any special support or supervision for students under the age of 18.
- An applicant who is offered a place will, on acceptance of that offer, enter into a legal contract with the College (the 'Acceptance Form') even where they are under the age of 18. Individuals under the age of 18 do not require the consent of their parents/guardians to enter into the contract.
- Where, however, an applicant is under the age of 18, the College and University will require the applicant's parent/guardian to sign the declaration within their Acceptance Form as confirmation that they, the parent/guardian, have read and understood the nature of the obligations which the College and University owe to its students under the age of 18 and the extent of the services and facilities which it provides to them. No applicant under the age of 18 will be admitted by the College and University unless and until the declaration has been so signed and returned to us.
- The formation of the contract creates a direct legal relationship between the College, University and the student. The College and University will not share information about students with their parents/guardians without a valid consent from the student or other lawful justification for disclosure. This means that the College and University is not able to give information to parents/guardians about a student's progress, results or any other personal circumstances in the absence of a valid consent or other justification.
- In the Netherlands, an individual may give a valid consent to medical treatment, notwithstanding that they are under the age of 18, where they have sufficient understanding of the nature and implications of the treatment. As such, parental consent

to treatment may not be required. Where, however, an individual under the age of 18 refuses treatment or cannot consent to treatment, there may be cases where a parent or someone with parental responsibility may be asked consent to treatment on behalf of the individual, or a Court order may be sought in that regard. Therefore situations may arise where a medical professional will look to someone with parental responsibility to give consent for the individual to receive treatment. In the event of an emergency, the College and University will act on medical advice and in the best interests of the student.

- All students (regardless of age) are responsible for their own academic progression and compliance with the College and University's rules, regulations, policies and procedures from time to time in force and/or updated.
- The College and University recommend that individuals under the age of 18 and their parents/ guardians visit the University prior to application and/or acceptance of any offer of a place in order to familiarise themselves with and reassure themselves about the environment in which the individual would be living and studying were s/he to be admitted to their course.

## **Part 2: The College and University's legal obligations**

- Notwithstanding that the College and University does not accept any responsibility to act in loco parentis for students under the age of 18, it is committed to seeking to take reasonable steps to ensure that all students, regardless of age, are provided with a safe and secure environment in which to study, learn and live. It similarly seeks to take reasonable steps to provide a safe and secure environment for its staff and for visitors who access its facilities and services.
- The College and University remains mindful of its duty of care to all its students and its other legal obligations.
- In addition, the College and University is committed to ensuring that it has arrangements in place, across the breadth of its activities, which allow it to carry out its functions in a manner which safeguards and promotes the welfare of children and vulnerable adults whether or not they are registered students at the College and University. These arrangements include processes for the safe recruitment and selection by the College and University of individuals to work with children and vulnerable adults.

## **Part 3: Appointment of a local contact (optional)**

- Where the parents/guardians of a student under the age of 18 are not resident in the Netherlands, the College and University advises, as a matter of good practice and in order to assist the College and University to seek to safeguard the interests of the student, that in case a locally based trusted and known relative or contact is available to parents/guardians, for their contact details to be provided in case of any emergencies.

## **Part 4: Student accommodation**

- The College and/or University may allocate to students aged 16 or 17 accommodation subject to availability and to the College and/or University's normal arrangements for the provision of accommodation. However, students under the age of 18 are unable to enter into tenancy agreements and will likely require a parent or guardian or other responsible person over the age of 18 to act as guarantor and to sign the tenancy agreement.

## **Part 5: International students**

- A student aged 16 or 17 has the legal right to live independently in the Netherlands and may make their own accommodation arrangements.
- The student must keep the College and University updated as to any change in their living arrangements in the Netherlands e.g. change of address. If there is a failure to provide the above information, the College and University reserve the right to refuse to register on the student on their course and/or enable them to continue their studies if they are already registered.

## **Part 6: Enquiries**

- Any enquiries about the content of this Policy should be addressed in the first instance to the College.
- References to "parents" and "guardians" in this Policy and the Acceptance Form include references to someone with parental responsibility for the relevant under 18 year old.