



Enrolment of Student under the age of 18 at Northumbria

I am writing to you as a student who will be under the age of 18 at the start of your programme of study at Northumbria University. When a student is under the age of 18 they are a minor in UK law and as such we need to make you aware of some key points and seek your agreement on a number of issues in order for you to be able to study with us. We also require you and a parent or guardian to sign and return this letter before your offer can be confirmed and your course can begin.

Your status at University

As a rule, the University shall deem all students aged under 18 as competent to understand all aspects of the normal University processes, to obey University regulations, to be disciplined under University procedures and we shall not as a matter of routine make contact with a parent or guardian concerning these matters. We are confident that your academic department and the University's support and advisory services will be able to offer any advice and guidance needed for normal situations.

You must be aware that Northumbria University is not in a position to offer you any substantive extra care or surveillance and does not accept any *in loco parentis* responsibility for students under the age of 18. By agreeing to study here, both you and your family accept that you are willing to receive the same degree of care, support and supervision that the University gives its adult students. It is also important that you understand that UK Higher Education is an adult learning environment and whilst at Northumbria you will be treated as far as possible as an adult. As such we expect you to fully understand what course you are pursuing and what it entails.

Staff and fellow students

As appropriate, some of the University staff you will encounter will have been subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, a UK government check to ascertain whether or not they are suitable to work with vulnerable adults and children. However, because a University is an adult learning environment, you must be aware that the majority of staff and almost all students in the institution are not subject to these checks and so whilst on campus, you will regularly come into contact with members of staff, colleagues and contractors who have not been DBS checked.

Restrictions on students under 18

There are a number of restrictions and exclusions placed on students aged under 18 as a result of their status as a minor and attending the University. These are primarily driven by legal requirements and the desire to safeguard students as far as we can. However, this may mean that you do not experience fully the social aspects of studying at a UK higher education institution. These exclusions will include not being able to purchase alcohol or tobacco yourself or have someone purchase it on your behalf without there being an offence committed in UK law. Restrictions may also be in place around student societies and students under 18 may not be able to stand for a position of office within the Student's Union. These restrictions relate to the extra-curricular elements of university and should have no detrimental impact on your academic experience or the content of your course.

Any restrictions or exclusions placed on any student as a result of their being a minor will automatically expire on their 18th birthday.

Student Life and Wellbeing

The University has a dedicated support teams which support all our students. You must make an appointment with a specialist team shortly after arriving at Northumbria so they can talk through the restrictions and

expectations on you but also help you to understand the support which is available. To make this appointment once you are enrolled, please raise an enquiry via the [Student Portal](#) using the article [Accessing support for students under 18 years old](#)

Key Points

- A student at University in the UK who is under the age of 18 when they start their course is classed as a minor in UK law.
- This means that there are particular activities which you may not be able to take part in until you are 18.
- Northumbria University cannot offer additional care which is similar to parental care/ responsibility. However, we will recommend that you to meet with a member of the team when you commence your course to ensure that you feel safe, confident and understand any legal restrictions.
- Studying in the UK is an exciting opportunity and we want to ensure that you feel supported to have the best experience at Northumbria University. If you would like further information on what support is available to you then please visit our website page [here](#). You can also find out about our safeguarding policy and contacts [here](#) on our website.

We look forward to welcoming you and in the meantime, I would be grateful if you could complete the attached form and return it to our admissions team

Yours faithfully

Student Life and Wellbeing