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# Students Under 18 Policy

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Audience: Staff and Students

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Responsible person: Student Support  
Manager

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Approved by: Institute Management Board

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## Introduction

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The Dyson Institute is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people under 18 and vulnerable adults, who seek to access programmes at the Institute. Under 18s living in England are considered by law to be children, which means the Institute has additional responsibilities until the date at which they turn 18. Once the student reaches the age of 18 this policy will no longer apply.

The Institute is an adult environment and as such 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. Applicants who are under 18 should be aware that they are applying to study in an adult environment and there may be a small number of limitations for them whilst they are under 18. However, the Institute provides excellent pastoral support and takes proactive steps to broaden the activities to promote inclusivity.

The Institute is not obliged, nor is it able, to take on the usual rights, responsibilities, and authority that parents/guardians 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. Until the student reaches their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, the Institute will share information with parents as required to support the student's success and wellbeing.

The nature of the Institute environment does inevitably mean that students under 18 years of age come into unsupervised contact with a wide variety of people who are 18 years or older during the course of their academic studies, residence in Institute accommodation, or any other organised activities. This includes contact with staff and fellow students. This contact does not fall within the statutory requirements for criminal record checks to be undertaken and, accordingly, there is no obligation for such checks to be carried out for all Institute staff, including those who are assigned as tutors and members of staff or students working within the Dyson Institute Village.

The usual personal and academic support arrangements will apply to students who are under 18 years. Students under the age of 18 will have priority access to the student support team. All students will have standard one to ones and the opportunities for additional support one to ones as required. The UEC proactively tailor a range of activities to provide enrichment opportunities which are accessible to students aged 17 and above. Some activities will remain accessible to over 18s only due to legal requirements.

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## 1.0 Contracts

A person of 16 or 17 has the status to enter into necessary contracts e.g., for education and accommodation, but until their 18th birthday will not be legally competent to enter into all legal contracts. In circumstances where a person must be aged 18 or over to be legally competent to enter into a contract the Institute requires a student's parents/guardians to honour all obligations (under any contracts with the Institute) that the student enters into prior to their 18th birthday.

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## 2.0 The Dyson Institute Village & Estates

Institute residences are intended for the use of adults and special arrangements cannot be made for students under the age of 18 years. Therefore, unless the young person will reach the age of 18 during their first year, they will not have access to Institute accommodation.

The Institute does not assume parental responsibility for a student under the age of 18. Students are expected to have the necessary skills to study and live independently alongside people from a wide variety of backgrounds, as individual supervision is not provided. Places in Institute residences are offered on the understanding that the student will be able to adapt to living away from home and be responsible for themselves in all practical matters. Highly trained security staff are on site 24 hours per day, 7 days per week and provide out of hours support to students on site. Student support advisors are available on every site throughout the week and accessible online within office hours. Village staff are also present weekdays within office hours.

Students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) must complete the consent forms below and confirm that they have the maturity to study in an adult environment. Both forms will need to be completed prior to enrolment. If the parent(s) do not live in the UK, they need to appoint a UK guardian who:

- Lives in the UK
- Is over the age of 18
- Is able to speak English
- Is easy to contact in an emergency
- Has a UK address and phone number
- Is not registered student or member of staff at Dyson or the Dyson Institute

[Under 18 student consent form](#)

[Parent/Guardian Under 18 consent form](#)

The Institute Village may provide social events where a film or documentary with a British Board of Film Classification of 18 years of age is shown. Legislation prohibits persons under the age of 18 from viewing 18-rated films in licensed cinemas. There are no educational reasons for viewing a programme of this nature on an engineering programme. Certificate 18 is suitable only for adults, therefore students under the age of 18 years should not attend UEC events showing movies with that certificate. Whilst under 18s are in residence, the UEC will promote engagement in activities which are appropriate.

Some campus buildings, including Dyson Institute Village grounds are open to escorted visitors. Dyson campus is not open to members of the public. Individual supervision is not provided, and students may encounter visitors who enter the premises in their normal course of their business. There is a high level of security presence and protocol to support and promote safety on site. Students under the age of 18 will not be expected to escort business visitors.

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## 3.0 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 Institute environment provides peer groups of mixed group adults.

Participating in social activity on and off campus is at the discretion of the students and the Institute is not able to take additional responsibility for a student who is under the age of 18 years in relation to such activities. The Institute and UEC will clearly communicate any age restrictions of activities and work to offer and promote engagement on age-appropriate enrichment and social activities.

The Undergraduate Experience Committee manage multiple events throughout the year. Some events are age-restricted, for example access to nightclubs or require parental permission for under 18s (for example indoor climbing walls) these will be clearly identified as such.

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that they abide the law on the consumption, sale and supply of alcohol (see The Licensing Act, 2003).

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## 4.0 Field trips and off-campus learning activity/activities

Programmes may involve excursions, field trips, or other periods of study or activity away from the Institute (some of which may be residential trips). Subject to discharging the Institute's duties under Health and Safety law, the Institute is not able to take any additional responsibility for a student who is under the age of 18 years in relation to such activities. Where activities require the young person to be off campus overnight the organiser must be made aware that an under 18-year-old will be participating and take appropriate child protection measures. This should include a risk assessment. International travel as part of any programme will not be permitted for students under 18.

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## 5.0 Library

It is unlawful to supply e.g., sell or lend, an age-restricted video recording to a person under the age restriction. Consequently, students will not be allowed to borrow DVDs/Blu-ray or other video recordings classified as adult to students who are under 18.

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## 6.0 Alcohol and tobacco

It is illegal for alcohol and/or tobacco to be sold to or bought by students who are under the age of 18 years. The Institute will take reasonable steps to seek to ensure that the law is not broken in relation to licensed premises under the Institute's control but cannot undertake to supervise any individual student (The Licensing Act, 2003).

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## 7.0 Holding Office

All students are encouraged to participate in UEC (Undergraduate Experience Committee) activities and its clubs and societies. However, students who are under 18 years old are not allowed to hold office, for

example, they may not be secretary or treasurer to the Undergraduate Experience Committee because some positions required them to have legal responsibilities.

The UEC's mission statement is To enrich & broaden the experience of Undergraduates at the Dyson Institute by representing their voices

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## 8.0 Relationships with staff

Under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, it is a criminal offence for any person in a position of trust (which may include members of Institute staff) to engage in sexual activity with someone who is under 18 years. Read in conjunction with the Staff Student Relationship Policy.

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## 9.0 Child protection

As a matter of law in England, a person under the age of 18 is a child. The Institute has a safeguarding team and a [Safeguarding & Prevent policy](#) and will report any suspicions or allegations of abuse of children to the to the Wiltshire Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub. Any such suspicions or allegations will be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will contact the appropriate authorities.

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## 10.0 Notification

Prior to arrival, of any student under the age of 18 years The Head of Engineering Programme will cascade this information to the Projects and Operations Manager and Undergraduate Experience Officer to ensure that estates / facilities team, Security, Village receptionist and Roundhouse manager are notified, prior to entry to the Institute. The academic tutor, Institute engineer and student support team will also be notified (teaching and other staff will not routinely be made aware of a student's age). A member of the student support team will meet with the under 18 student upon arrival and ensure they understand support available and how to access the student support team and external support services.

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## 11.0 Parental involvement

It is the Institute's usual policy that it deals with students (with whom it has a contractual relationship) and not with parents/guardians. This approach will also apply to students who are under the age of 18 years. The Institute will therefore correspond with students, not parents/guardians in the first instance, unless in an emergency (see point 3 and point 17). Parents/guardians may contact the student support team at [studentsupport@dyson.com](mailto:studentsupport@dyson.com) safeguarding protocols will apply.

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## 12.0 Data Protection

Where consent is required, students who are under the age of 18 years are considered to be capable of consenting to the processing of their personal data and parental consent will not usually be sought for Institute managed activities.

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## 13.0 Emergency contact

Emergency contact details for parents/guardians are an essential requirement prior to arrival and any changes must be notified promptly to the Institute.

Students under the age of 18 can have their refusal to receive medical treatment overridden by parents/guardians. 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/guardians.



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## 14.0 Contact details

Further information about the supporting procedure for this policy is via the safeguarding team and is available from [DIETsafeguarding@dyson.com](mailto:DIETsafeguarding@dyson.com)

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## 15.0 Related policies

- Safeguarding and Prevent Policy
- Sexual Violence, Harassment and Misconduct policy
- Staff Students relationships policy -breaches in this policy will be dealt with under the Dyson Grievance and Disciplinary policies

All these policies can be found [here](#).