

Accommodation Services Duty of Care Policy

Purpose

1. The University of the Arts London (“UAL”) has a general policy statement on the issue of duty of care, which acts as a guideline to all students and staff regarding the educational work of the university. There are considerations relevant to halls of residence, with particular reference to the UAL’s accommodation provision for under 18’s, which require special provision.
2. This document highlights the issues and legal requirements which UAL must take into consideration when carrying out its function of accommodation provider, and identifies the services and facilities in place to meet those legal responsibilities.

The Relevant Legal Requirements Regarding Under 18’s

3. Relevant statutory provisions are set out in The Children Act 1989, The Care Standards Act 2000, and the Protection of Children Act 1999
4. Students and the parents or guardians need to be aware that UAL does not accept parental responsibility for students. Whilst a student is under 18, it is the parents’ (or guardian’s) continuing responsibility to safeguard and promote their child’s (or ward’s) welfare. The University’s role in this is to provide accommodation of a reasonable standard to enable the young person in question to live independently, with the support of their family in the background. UAL therefore has in place measures, which it ensures are clearly understood, reasonable and based on common sense. These measures are summarised below and further guidance on specific issues can be found in UAL’s overarching Duty of Care Statement.

Our Responsibilities

5. UAL undertakes to provide the following for students aged under 18:
 - a duty manager available 24 hours, 7 days a week
 - a dedicated out-of-hours residential operations team which works overnight to oversee UAL halls of residence
 - student wellbeing peers who are available for regular drop-in sessions to give advice and support regarding life as a UAL student and hall resident. All under 18’s are visited by a student wellbeing peer once each academic term.
 - residence staff available to assist students and resolve issues or refer requests to those more able to assist either through student services departments at college sites or at 272 High Holborn Holborn London WC1V 7EY.
 - a designated safeguarding person to whom any incidents in respect of a child (under 18) can be referred
 - an anti-drugs policy
 - notification to the parents/guardians of any serious incident involving their child/ward (provided we have consent if consent

- is required by law).
 - disciplinary action in accordance with the terms of the tenancy agreement.
6. Accommodation Services does not ensure/enforce/monitor the following:
- signing in or out of the accommodation on entering/leaving the building
 - checking of late night/overnight visitors
 - gender segregation
 - checking what activities a student participates in when off premises
 - students' health or eating habits
 - students' finances

Student and Parents'/Guardians' Responsibilities

7. Students and, if they are under 18, a parent or guardian are required to sign the Duty of Care Acknowledgement form that accompanies this policy and return it to UAL. It is important that students and their parent/guardian read and understand both this policy and the terms of their tenancy agreement.

Summary

8. The provision of residential accommodation to students aged under 18 has additional legal requirements, over and above the duty of care UAL has towards its adult students.

This policy document summarises the additional practices, services and facilities which UAL provides for under 18s, and makes sure parents and guardians are aware that their children/wards will be living independently in an adult environment with relatively little supervision, but with adequate support in place for serious situations and to safeguard the welfare of residents.