

Student Parents

Supporting student parents at UAL

All students face challenges in balancing their work with other commitments, but none more so than student parents. As a parent, you are likely to be juggling the needs of your child with college work, as well as your own needs and the changing demands of family life.

UAL appreciates the pressures many student parents face and we hope this guidance will provide you with the information you need to make sure you have a positive and fulfilling experience at UAL. The guidance covers:

- Support on your course
- Peer support
- Bringing children on to site
- Quiet Spaces
- Childcare
- Extenuating Circumstances
- Money Advice
- Accommodation

Support on your course

The University encourages students to arrange childcare so that you can attend all timetabled sessions, including lectures, seminars, group and individual tutorials, learning support sessions, workshops, inductions and demonstrations. However, speaking to your course leader or personal tutor about your caring responsibilities can help to plan the kind of support and flexibility you may need.

Courses may differ in the kind of flexibility that can be offered, but you may want to discuss the following areas:

- What happens if you are unable to attend because you need to care for your child, or child-care arrangements have changed at the last minute? Can course materials / lecture notes or catch up tutorials be provided?
- Can you agree arrangements for when you need to arrive late or leave early?
- Can timetables be provided in advance so that you can plan your childcare in plenty of time?
- Can changes be made to scheduled personal tutorials or other 1:1 sessions to help you manage your parental responsibilities?
- Where can you get support and advice about finding work placements that are close to home, or fit in with your childcare arrangements?
- Do other staff members need to be made aware of these arrangements, so that you do not need to inform different people individually?

Peer-support

There are over 400 student parents at UAL. While it can feel quite lonely at times, it can help to know that there are other people going through the same thing and sharing experiences with other parents can be a great way to overcome some of the challenges you face. There might not always seem like there's enough time for socialising, but this can be a really important part of your University experience.

The Students' Union arrange events for student parents and can put you in touch with other student parents at UAL. To find out more contact the SU President, Shelly Asquith on President@su.arts.ac.uk

Bringing Children to University sites

You may want to bring your child / children in to college from time to time. Showing your children where you study can be a great way of helping them understand more about your life away from them. There may also be occasions when you need to bring your child in while you drop off a piece of work, pay fees, visit a Learning Zone or get information about courses. The following arrangements must be applied when children or young people visit the University.

- You must supervise the child / children at all times and ensure their health and safety, and the health and safety of others where necessary. Do not delegate this responsibility another person.
- Please be aware that there may be artwork on display that is of an explicit nature.
- Adults bringing children on site must sign in for the children, acknowledging they have responsibility for the safety and supervision of their children at all times, including in the event of an emergency. This does not remove the duty of care for all visitors placed on the University.
- Most workshops and studio spaces are not safe for children, due to the use of equipment and chemical materials used.
- Some colleges will ask you to complete a risk assessment before bringing your child on site, so that clear arrangements are made regarding the safety of your child. Please check with your local health and safety officer, their contact details can be found at:
<https://myintranet.arts.ac.uk/staffandstudents/help/health-and-safety/staff/contact-us/>



[Click here](#) or search online for Bringing Children onto University sites

Quiet Spaces

For rest, breastfeeding or expressing milk.

Each University site has a space for students, staff and visitors to undertake prayer or personal reflection or to use for health requirements or rest. Quiet Spaces can be used for the following purposes:

- Prayer or personal reflection.
- Rest (e.g. recovery from a seizure or rest during pregnancy).
- Breastfeeding or expressing milk.
- Taking medication.
- Other health reasons.

Some Quiet Spaces contain a fridge for staff and students to store medication or breast milk. If you require access to a fridge in order to store breast-milk, please contact your local Health and Safety Officer.

<http://www.arts.ac.uk/about-ual/diversity/quiet-spaces/>

Childcare

UAL does not operate a university nursery for staff and students, however you may find the following website useful in order to find a childcare provider close to your home or college: <http://www.daynurseries.co.uk/>

Extenuating Circumstances

The University's Extenuating Circumstances guidelines make specific reference to students with caring responsibilities, including student parents.

You may be able to submit an extenuating circumstances claim if there are circumstances which are unexpected, significantly disruptive and beyond your control, and which may have affected your ability to meet an assessment deadline or the level of your performance at assessment.

For advice about submitting Extenuating Circumstances, please contact your College Administrator or the Students' Union Advice Team on advice@su.arts.ac.uk.



[Click here](#) or search online for UAL Extenuating Circumstances Policy

Money advice

The Student Advice Service is here to help you to make sure you're accessing all of the funds available to you and answer any queries you may have. They can tell you about the [Access to Learning fund](#) as well as [bursaries and scholarships](#) that are available to students at UAL

Contact the Student Advice Service on:

Tel: +44 (0)20 7514 6250

Email: student.services@arts.ac.uk



[Click here](#) or search online for the Student Advice and Funding

Accommodation

Currently there are no UAL halls of residence that have provision for children. The University's Accommodation Services will be able to advise you on the best accommodation options.



[Click here](#) or search online for the Student Accommodation

Support and Advice Agencies for Student Parents



Brightside is a charity that helps young people access the education and career pathways they might not have believed were available to them. They offer Online mentoring, resources and information for student parents in England.

<http://www.studentparents.org/>



NUS connect provides information and guidance for student parents on areas such as funding, financial help, preschool costs and free childcare for training and learning for Work Scheme

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/campaigns/welfare/studentparents/>