

Students Under 18 Guidance

This document refers to: Nexus ICA's approach to students under the age of 18 who study here.

1. Guidance for Students and the Parents or Guardians of Students aged under 18 on Entry

1.1 Nexus ICA is committed to the safety and well-being of all its students. Students who are under 18 are regarded as minors under UK law.

1.2 We therefore ask that you consider the following points as you enrol on the course here:

- i. Nexus ICA does not assume parental responsibility for a student under the age of 18. Students and their families should be aware that the Nexus ICA is an adult environment. Students are expected to behave like adults and to assume adult levels of responsibility; displaying the necessary skills to study alongside people from a wide variety of backgrounds. The usual personal and academic support arrangements that apply to students who are 18 and over will also apply to students who are under 18 years.
- ii. Nexus ICA acknowledges that some legal restrictions apply to students who are under 18 e.g. prohibition on the consumption of alcohol on licensed premises and the sale/supply of DVDs/videos with a British Board of Film Classification of 18 years of age.
- iii. Students who are 16 or over have the legal capacity to consent to medical treatment. Parents/guardians must be aware that Nexus ICA therefore cannot provide any consent for emergency medical treatment for a student. Students who are under 18 may have any refusal to consent to life-saving treatment overridden by a parent, but the views of the child must be taken into account. Emergency contact details must therefore be provided to Nexus ICA prior to the student's arrival. In such circumstances, decisions about treatment and treatment itself will be a matter for the medical practitioners.
- iv. Students who are under 18 have the legal capacity to enter into contracts for education and necessary accommodation and will be liable for fees and charges payable under those contracts. Parents are asked to guarantee obligations under any other contracts with Nexus ICA for which those under 18 do not have the requisite legal capacity (e.g. RAG Week consent).
- v. It is Nexus ICA's usual policy that it deals with students (with whom it has a contractual relationship) and not with parents. This approach will also usually apply to students who are under the age of 18 and Nexus ICA will correspond directly with the students, rather than parents.
- vi. Although those under 18 are regarded as minors under the law, they still have the right under the Data Protection Act for information about them not to be disclosed without their consent or as otherwise permitted by the Data Protection Act 1998. This means that Nexus ICA is not able to give information to parents or guardians regarding the student's progress, results or any other personal circumstances unless the student has given their specific consent or such disclosure would otherwise be in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Students under the age of 18 must be prepared to consent for personal information to be released to parents or guardians in the event of medical emergencies and on medical advice. Insofar as the parent/guardian has

guaranteed the student's obligations, Nexus ICA may correspond with the parent/guardian in respect of any liability under those guarantor arrangements.

- vii. Parents and guardians of students under 18 should note that internet access is unrestricted at Nexus ICA. Students under 18 will be expected to observe the same rules and regulations about acceptable use of the internet as all other students.
- viii. Any suspicions or allegations of abuse of students who are under 18 will be handled and reported as necessary and appropriate in accordance with the Nexus ICA's Safeguarding Children Policy.
- ix. The relevant Pathway Tutor will be notified, prior to registration, of any student within their pathway who will be under the age of 18 on entry to Nexus ICA. The student's Discovery Group Leader will be notified; other staff may be also notified as necessary and appropriate.
- x. Parents should recognise that residential accommodation offered by Nexus ICA is generally intended for the use of adults and that, save in exceptional circumstances, special arrangements cannot be made for students who are under the age of 18 years. Where a student takes private accommodation (ie accommodation not owned, managed or organised by Nexus ICA), parents/guardians are responsible for organising and approving such private arrangements.

2. Additional Information for Overseas Students

2.1 Where an under 18 student is from overseas and the parents remain abroad, Nexus ICA requires contact details of a guardian in the UK for the student. The guardian must be reasonably accessible to the student and Nexus ICA should the need arise. Nexus ICA requires a copy of the guardian's agreement with the parents in which the guardian asserts that they will act on the parents' behalf until the student's 18th birthday. Parents should assure themselves that the guardian is suitable and Nexus ICA accepts no liability or responsibility in respect of the arrangements between parents and guardian. Parents should take independent advice if required.

2.2 International students who will be under 18 at the time of application and/or enrolment at Nexus ICA must ensure that they provide Nexus ICA with such information as is requested in order for Nexus ICA to issue a CAS and to receive any other information required from the student prior to his/her arrival in the UK, in addition to the terms of this policy. International students are advised to contact the Student Services Administrator if they have any queries in this regard.