

MOUNTVIEW

Under 18s Admissions Policy

INTRODUCTION

Mountview will admit students to Higher Education courses who are under 18 at time of entry, provided they are due to turn 18 within their first term of study. Such students are minors in the eyes of the law and thus Mountview has an enhanced duty of care towards them until the date at which they attain their majority (their 18th birthday), even if this period is relatively brief.

The policy of Mountview is to treat students who are under 18 years of age as much as possible in the same way that it treats all other students. Such students will be subject to Mountview's normal [rules, regulations and policies](#) and will be able to access the majority of Mountview's facilities and opportunities offered in the same way as all other students. However, Mountview will vary its normal procedures, or restrict access to some of its facilities and opportunities whenever it is deemed to be in the best interests of those who are minors, or when it is required to do so by the law.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. The Mountview community and campus is predominantly an adult environment.
2. It is important that individuals under the age of 18 and their parents/ guardians understand principle 1.
3. Students 18 years and older are responsible for their own well-being, supported within the safeguards set by Mountview.
4. Mountview does not take on the rights and responsibilities of parents/guardians, or act *in loco parentis*, in relation to under 18s.
5. Regardless of age, Mountview expects all students to assume adult levels of responsibility.
6. Regardless of age, Mountview expects all students to have the necessary skills to study and live independently, without supervision, and to always conduct themselves as responsible members of the Mountview community, to comply with Mountview's rules and to respect the rights of others.
7. Whilst Mountview provides academic and pastoral support for students, it does not normally provide any special support or supervision for students under the age of 18.
8. Students under 18 will be assigned a named Mountview contact (personal tutor or Course Leader) and Mountview undertakes to ensure that this contact and any other staff members who have personal tutor or other pastoral responsibilities for students under 18 are checked for their suitability to undertake such roles.

APPLYING TO MOUNTVIEW IF YOU ARE UNDER 18

1. If an applicant will be under the age of 18 at the point of starting their studies, Mountview will write to the applicant to seek a response from their parent or guardian at the time of an offer. The parent or guardian will be requested to co-sign the Terms & Conditions of Acceptance when a place is offered and complete an online Parental Consent Form, which can be found [here](#). Without completion of this online form, entry to Mountview will not be permitted. Where such applicants are domiciled internationally, Mountview will ask for written confirmation that someone over the age of 18 is willing to act as their UK based guardian. We refer to this nominated individual as having responsibility *in loco parentis*.

2. *A loco parentis* should be somebody responsible, who can act promptly and effectively on any relevant situation that could impact on a student's well-being.
3. Mountview is not responsible for vetting the suitability of a *loco parentis*.
4. If the applicant is unable to provide a UK based *loco parentis*, we are unable to allow the student to progress in their application and an offer will not be made.
5. No applicant under the age of 18 will be permitted to enrol at Mountview unless the parent/guardian has completed the online Parental Consent Form and co-signed the Terms & Conditions of Acceptance and returned this to the Admissions Office.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

There are a number of particular and general pieces of legislation that have relevance for HEIs in respect of their responsibilities to students under 18 years of age. A brief summary of the implications of this legislation is provided below.

Contractual Capacity

Those under 18 years of age are not able to enter into binding contractual relationships in all circumstances. The law is complex in this area but contracts for tuition fees, accommodation and Student Loans are likely to be enforceable for those under 18 as these are likely to be defined as 'necessaries'. However, it is possible that some contracts may fall outside this definition and thus might not be enforceable.

A parent/guardian must co-sign the Terms & Conditions of Acceptance when a place is offered to study at Mountview.

Data Protection

Minors over 16 have the same rights under the Data Protection legislation as those over 18. This means that Mountview will not disclose any information about such students without their specific consent. However, if the student fails to pay any sums agreed on contract then it might be necessary to disclose this to any guarantor and possibly to a debt collection agency.

Staff-student relationships

Section 16-19 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 provides a new criminal offence of abuse of trust which relates to what might before have been perceived as consensual behaviour when it occurs within certain relationships of trust. Within the Mountview context, such relationships of trust will include relationships between a student under 18 and a member of University staff such as an Adviser or lecturer, or a Senior Resident.

Sale of alcohol and other restricted goods and services

It is an offence for a person under 18 to purchase alcohol and for anyone to sell alcohol to such a person. It is also an offence to purchase alcohol on behalf of someone under 18, whether this is for consumption in licensed premises or publicly elsewhere. There are also age restrictions for a number of other goods including:

- Solvents
- Gas lighter refills
- Fireworks
- Knives, blades and axes
- Some videos and DVDs
- Video and computer games

- Services, including entrance to venues in which films with an 18 certificate are being shown

An up-to-date list can be found on the [PASS website](#).

Student visa

Under the [current guidance produced by the Home Office](#) applicants can apply for a Student visa to study in the UK if they are 16 years old or older.

If you're under 18 you'll need written consent from both parents or legal guardians (or one parent if they have sole responsibility).

This must include their consent for:

- your visa application
- your living and care arrangements in the UK
- your travel to the UK

You'll also need to provide a copy of your birth certificate (or another government issued document) that shows the names of your parents.

Translation requirements

If any of your documents are not in English, you must also include an English translation of each document. Each translation must contain:

- Confirmation from the translator or translation company that it is an accurate translation of the original document
- Date of the translation
- Full name and signature of the translator
- Contact details of the translator or translation company

Date reviewed: August 2026

Status: Approved

Date of next review: September 2027

Owner: Admissions & Registry Manager