UCFB|GIS* Admission of Students Under the Age of 18 Policy

Owner:	Head of Admissions
Author:	Head of Admissions
Version Number:	1.1
Approval Date:	08 September 2023

Approval Date Approved By:

1. Purpose and Scope of the Policy

1.1. Purpose

- 1.1.1. To set out the policy and procedure for the admission and enrolment of applicants under the age of 18 years.
- 1.1.2. In England, young people become adults on their 18 th birthday.
- 1.1.3. Admission of such applicants therefore requires additional consideration in order that the UCFB|GIS can ensure that it fulfils its obligations and meets any additional needs in relation to support and wellbeing.

1.2. Scope

1.2.1. This Policy applies to all applicants under the age of 18 years and their parents/legal guardians.

2. Policy Statement

2.1. Introduction

- 2.1.1. At UCFB|GIS an applicant's suitability for study is assessed on their academic ability and potential to succeed.
- 2.1.2. UCFB|GIS does not discriminate on any grounds, including age, against any applicant who has met the institution's entry requirements for a course of study.
- 2.1.3. However, UCFB|GIS is an adult environment; all students are expected to act as adults and to assume adult level of responsibility.
- 2.1.4. Students are expected to have the necessary skills to study independently alongside people from a wide variety of ages and backgrounds.
- 2.1.5. Places are offered on the understanding that, where relevant, students under the age of 18 years will be able to adapt to living away from home and manage the practicalities that this involves.
- 2.1.6. UCFB|GIS treats all students as independent, mature individuals and students who are under the age of 18 years will be treated in the same way.

2.2. Parental Responsibility

- 2.2.1. UCFB|GIS is not able to take on the usual rights, responsibilities and authority that parents 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.
- 2.2.2. Parent / legal guardians and applicants who are under the age of 18 years should:
 - Understand that any adjustments made for a student under the age of 18 years, are made in the best interests of the

- student. UCFB |GIS aims to provide a commensurate, if not identical, study experience for students under 18 years of age.
- Understand that UCFB |GIS does not provide parents/legal guardians or other persons with information relating to a student's progress unless the disclosure is required under the Data Protection Act or the student has provided their express and written permission to do so.
- Be aware that on admission, applicants will be entering into an adult environment by studying at UCFB |GIS and will be treated as an adult. This includes access to materials intended for persons over the age of 18.
- Understand the level of maturity required to operate within an adult educational environment.
- Understand it is illegal in the UK for alcohol to be sold to or bought by students who are under the age of 18 years.
 UCFB|GIS will take reasonable steps to seek to ensure that the law is not broken in relation to licensed premises under the institution's control but cannot undertake to supervise any individual student.
- Be aware that the applicant should have express permission from their parents/legal guardian to study at UCFB.
- Be aware that parents/legal guardians will be committing to providing support for the applicant.
- Meet the inst itution's general Terms of Admittance by providing parent/legal guardian contact details (i.e. a local based responsible adult such as a family member or friend) who the university can contact in case of an emergency.
- Understand that parent(s) (or legal guardian as appropriate) are responsible for the debts of any student under the age of 18 years, or agreed whilst the student is under the age of 18 years.
- Understand that UCFB |GIS does not provide parents/legal guardians or other persons with information relating to a student's progress unless the disclosure is required under the Data Protection Act, or the student has provided their express and written permission to do so.
- 2.2.3. Applicants who are under the age of 18 but do not have a parent or legal guardian based in the UK are required to inform UCFB|GIS of a UK-based guardian. The UK-based guardian will be their point of contact in the UK should an emergency situation arise. This guardian can be a nominated relative or friend living in the UK. Alternatively, a guardian can be appointed through an organis ation offering legal guardianship services, such as the Association of Educational Guardians for International Students (AEGIS) who inspect guardians to ensure they meet the required standards.

- 2.3. Admitting applicants who are under 18 years of age
 - 2.3.1. Applicants must declare their date of birth on their application for study whether made directly to UCFB |GIS or via a centralised admissions system such as UCAS.
 - 2.3.2. The application will be processed in the normal way and a decision on academic suitability made without consideration of the age of the applicant (except where a professional body requirement precludes this).
 - 2.3.3. UCFB|GIS will ensure restrictions on the age of entry are included in the published course information pages online. Applicants should also ensure they check the course information prior to making an application to study at this institution.
 - 2.3.4. If an offer of a place (either conditional or unconditional) is to be made and the applicant will be 17 years of age on entry, the following will apply:
 - A formal offer will be communicated in the normal way.
 - The applicant will be requested by the Admissions Team to provide an authorised Parental Consent Form (see Appendix 1) from a parent / legal guardian as well as confirmation of their local guardian details.
 - UCFB|GIS reserves the right to independently verify the information contained within these undertakings and consents prior to permitting enrolment.
 - 2.3.5. Enrolment will not be permitted until these documents have been received.
 - 2.3.6. If the applicant is, or will be, academically qualified for the course by the requested point of entry but will be under 17 years of age on entry, the following will apply:
 - A formal offer will not be made until the applicant's maturity and readiness to enter an adult environment has been assessed. A completed Parental Consent Form will be requested, and an assessment will be made by the Head of Admissions, or nominee, who will consult with appropriate colleagues e.g., academic and support staff, where relevant.
 - An assessment may include, but is not limited to, supporting statements and references from Schools / Colleges and/or interview with the applicant and a parent / legal guardian.
 - If the Head of Admissions, or nominee, is satisfied that the applicant has the level of maturity and understanding required to enter an adult environment, a formal offer will be made.
 - UCFBIGIS