

Information for students aged under 18 attending adult courses & their parents

EF acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of students aged 17 and under, in line with standards set by our educational oversight and accrediting bodies as well as UK legal requirements.

Unless enrolled in a summer junior programme, students travelling to the UK will attend adult courses alongside older learners. Younger students are therefore expected to demonstrate the maturity needed to travel independently and to behave responsibly while participating in our courses.

Our aim is to provide a safe, positive, and welcoming environment for both study and accommodation for all students. We exercise an additional duty of care for those who are legally minors by implementing closer monitoring and specific procedures. Our schools maintain strong safeguarding and welfare measures to ensure that all students—particularly those under the age of 18—are protected from harm.

Parents of younger students are required to give consent to these arrangements by signing EF Terms & Conditions when confirming a booking.

Travel from the Arrival Port

We strongly recommend the EF transfer service to younger students. If alternative travel arrangements are made, these must be confirmed to the EF office in advance of travel and on arrival the immigration services in the UK may request to see parental consent to travel and ask for information about EF's transfer service.

Shared Accommodation

All homestay accommodation is segregated by age and gender. Where residence accommodation is available for younger students, buildings will have separate areas for under 18s in bedrooms allocated by gender. In some residences these may be on mixed gender floors. Where bedrooms do not have ensuite bathrooms, bathroom facilities are always segregated by gender but may be allocated on the same floor.

Accommodation Meal Plans

Your meal plan is dependent on your chosen accommodation. Homestay accommodation includes breakfast and dinner Monday to Friday with lunch also provided at the weekend. Residence meal plans will vary depending on the residence and the time of year. Please ask your sales office to confirm the meal plan at your chosen residence. All UK schools have a cafeteria service where students can select and pay for food and drink. Younger students are encouraged to benefit from their homestay experience by returning home for dinner.

Non-EF Accommodation

EF does not expect 16/17-year-olds to live in their own accommodation during their course. However, should they wish to, parental consent is required, and EF staff will check the accommodation and named supervising adult are appropriate.

Curfew

A nightly curfew is in place for all students aged under 18. This is 11pm on school nights, extended to 12am on Friday-Saturday. Students are required to be in their allocated accommodation by this time. Staff and hosts will check that students have returned home safely and will follow up immediately on any absences, in line with the EF Missing Student Policy. Sanctions will be imposed for repeated breach of this requirement.

Supervision

Direct supervision is not provided outside of lessons or EF organised activities. This includes travel to and from school, travel to accommodation in the evening, and weekends. EF activities and excursions are risk

assessed with safeguarding requirements taken into account and supervised at a ratio of one staff member to twenty under 18-year-old students. Supervision ratio for staff in residential accommodation is also one staff member to twenty under 18-year-old students.

Social activities

Participation in organised activities is optional but strongly encouraged for younger students and activities staff ensure that the weekly leisure programme includes age-appropriate activities. When an activity is not suitable for under 18s, younger students are not allowed to join and are blocked from signing up on the EF Campus Connect app. Any such activity is clearly indicated.

Independent travel outside the course town

We strongly recommend traveling on EF-organised day and weekend excursions. Any independent travel including an overnight stay will require a signed parental consent with details shared of itinerary, accommodation arrangements, and appropriate supervising adult. This information will be verified by EF staff and EF reserves the right to refuse permission for the trip if arrangements are not considered adequate for the wellbeing of the student.

Classes

Students aged under 18 may be allocated to any class suitable for their level of English and may study alongside adult learners. Class lists indicate if a class includes students aged 16 or 17, and teachers ensure topics discussed are appropriate for this age range.

Attendance

EF has a strict attendance policy for all students and under 18s are required to attend school every day. If a student is absent, staff will contact them to check on their wellbeing. In case of sickness the school should be informed immediately if the student cannot attend.

UK Laws

Under 18s are not permitted to buy cigarettes, alcohol or enter night clubs. Safety, security, and welfare are our top priorities. So please ensure all guidelines are followed. Students who do not observe the law will be excluded from the programme.

Other Safeguarding Arrangements Include:

- All staff and homestay hosts are fully vetted in accordance with UK law.
- All schools have a clearly indicated safeguarding team with a named Designated Safeguarding Lead who students can speak to if they have problems. This person is clearly signposted in schools.
- Each school holds regular welfare committee meetings where any safeguarding concerns are discussed.
- All staff undergo safeguarding training.
- Young students receive specific induction information on arrival in school to advise them of special arrangements and requirements.
- Older students are made aware of the presence of younger students in the school community and their responsibilities.
- Under 18s are accompanied to all medical appointments by a member of staff or their EF host.
- EF sales staff remain in regular contact with parents/guardians and discuss any issues or concerns.
- All students have access to a 24-hour emergency phone number.

For a full overview of procedures in place for the safety and protection of younger students, please see the EF Safeguarding Policy.