KAPLAN
INTERNATIONAL PATHWAYS



Supporting Student Success in the UK

The importance of accommodation and guardianship for under-18 students

Information for sponsors

Guardianship and accommodation for under-18s

Under UK law, students under 18 require enhanced safeguarding support. Kaplan and our sponsor partners must ensure they get this, with appropriate guardianship and accommodation arrangements made before they travel.

What must be in place before travel

To uphold our responsibilities, **all under-18 students must have a UK-based guardian**, responsible for co-ordinating welfare, emergency support and key decisions. **They must also have suitable accommodation**.

Under-18 students must stay:

- **in college-approved accommodation** booked through Kaplan Living, **or**
- **with a responsible adult over 21** in the same town or city as their college (until their 18th birthday or the end of their course, whichever comes first).

Why Kaplan Living is a great option:

- **Flexible contract options**, including one-term and one-month contracts for students who turn 18 during their course, as well as full-course contracts
- **Dedicated wellbeing support** from teams experienced in supporting younger students
- **A stable living environment** that helps students settle quickly and focus on their studies — students in college accommodation achieve better results (Kaplan student outcomes data, 2025 graduate cohort)

Why guardianship is essential

Trusted guardians and secure home environments are fundamental to the success of under-18 students. **Ensuring that they have them is compulsory.**

What makes a good guardian

Test the strength of guardianship arrangements with these questions:

- Does the guardian reside full-time in the same town or city as the student's college?
- Does the guardian have permission to stay in the UK for the duration of the student's course or until the student reaches the age of 18?
- Is the guardian over 21 years old, and do they have the maturity and judgement to make important decisions in the student's best interest?
- Can they communicate clearly in English with the college, accommodation provider and Kaplan teams?
- Can they be on call 24/7 and ready to attend if the student needs assistance at a hospital or police station?
- How many students are they responsible for, and do they have time to get to know each one? NSPCC Learning suggests a ratio of no more than 10 students per adult to ensure child safety.
- Can they act as a positive role model, helping the student adjust to independent living and new cultural norms?
- Can they offer emotional support when the student feels homesick or distressed?
- Do they have an established, trusting relationship with the student and their family?

What happens if appropriate arrangements are not made

We cannot issue a CAS until suitable guardianship and accommodation arrangements are confirmed.

This is a safeguarding requirement for all students under 18. Plans must be confirmed through the Underage Consent Form before travel is finalised.

How Kaplan can help

If you're unsure whether your nominated guardian meets the requirements, **Kaplan can arrange professional guardianship services** through an AEGIS-accredited provider.

If required, **we can offer students a one-term or one-month contract at Kaplan Living**. Contact us for details.

Together, we can ensure your students achieve their ambitions, preparing them to make a significant contribution in future.