

Heriot-Watt University: Admission of a Child Procedure

Scope

This policy outlines the principles and procedures for admitting students under 18 to Heriot-Watt University, including undergraduate, postgraduate, and foundation programmes, with special consideration for applicants under 16 at the start of their programme.

Heriot-Watt adheres to international child protection laws, including The Children Act 1989 (UK), Article 1 of Federal Law No.(3) of 2016 on Child Rights Law (Wadeema's Law, U.A.E), and The Child Act 2001 [Act 611] (Malaysia). Accordingly, anyone under 18 is considered a child.

General

Heriot-Watt University welcomes applications from students of all ages, without specific age restrictions, except where required by professional bodies¹. Admission is based on academic merit, and age is only considered after confirming eligibility for an offer.

The university is an adult learning environment and arrangements for students who are defined as children to attend the University need to be agreed between the University and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) prior to an offer of a place of study being made.

For applicants under the age of 16 at the start of their proposed programme of study, a meeting will be required with the Executive Dean or Head of School, or their nominee to discuss their application, academic preparedness and suitability for university life. A risk assessment may be carried out to identify if there are any specific risks attached to admitting the student to a particular programme.

The admissions team will contact the applicant and their parent(s) or guardian(s) to discuss any issues raised by the risk assessment, and conditions that may be attached to the offer.

If necessary, a care plan will be prepared for the student and must be signed off by the University and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s). It will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains fit for purpose until the child turns 16.

Supporting Documents

- [Academic Regulations](#)
- [Under 18 student guidance](#)

¹ Students must be over the age of 18 to apply for a Heriot-Watt Postgraduate programme [online](#)