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Senate

Subject: Proposed Policy for Admitting Students Under the Age of 18

**Origin: Director of Student Recruitment and Admissions**

**Executive Summary:**

This paper summarises the issues in relation to admitting students under the age of 18 and a proposed new policy

**Action Required:**

Senate is asked to approve the policy

**1. Background**

Since the Age Discrimination Act came in to force in October 2006, an applicant cannot be discriminated against solely on the basis of his/her age. This means that the University cannot operate a minimum age for entry to its courses but must simply consider the applicant against the published entry criteria.

However, those under 18 are classed as children under law and it is therefore necessary to put procedures in place to ensure that parents/guardians are aware of the University’s responsibilities in relation to such applicants.

**2. Proposal**

In order to safeguard the students and the University, it is proposed that an under 18s policy is adopted which specifies that an applicant cannot be accepted on to a course at Loughborough University unless their parent/guardian has signed the consent form (Appendix B) agreeing to the procedures outlined in the attached document (Appendix A).

The Admissions Policy should be amended as follows (additional section in italics):

‘The University is committed to achieving an educational and working environment which provides equality of opportunity, and freedom from discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, gender, marital status, disability, religious or political beliefs, age, sexual orientation or social or economic background.

This Admissions Policy aims to address the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Act 2001.

*Any applicant who will be under the age of 18 on 1 December after the start of their course will be required, along with their parent/guardian, to sign a consent form before they can take up their place at the University (link to information and consent form)’*