Applications for Students Under 18 Years of Age

Students who are under 18 years of age at the time of visa application must have approved Accommodation and Welfare Arrangements in place.

The arrangements must be approved by DIAC directly, or by RMIT.

The Accommodation and Welfare Arrangements must be finalised before the visa application can be lodged. Therefore it is essential that the Student Visa Applicant – Under 18 Form http://mams.rmit.edu.au/ta31yty061n91.pdf be submitted at the time of Acceptance.

Students must be aware that applications nominating family friends or relatives may take longer to process than those nominating a company.

How to have welfare arrangements approved by DIAC (Option 1)
DIAC will only approve welfare arrangements if the parents or guardian nominate that the student will reside with a relative who is over 21 years of age and of good character. For further information please see the following website:

If the student is unable to provide details of a nominated relative to DIAC, he/she will need RMIT to sign a Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare (CAAW) Form.

How to have RMIT sign the CAAW Form
RMIT will only sign the CAAW form if the student has appropriate Welfare (caregiver) and accommodation arrangements.

Appropriate Welfare Arrangement Choices
a) The student enters into care arrangements with a care giving service approved by International Services. (Option 2)
The Approved Companies are:

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<tr>
<th>EduCARE Services Australia Pty Ltd</th>
<th>International Student Alliance (Guardian &amp; Welfare Service)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44 Roborough Ave MOUNT ELZA, Vic 393023</td>
<td>P.O.Box: 87 Chirnside Park, Victoria: 3116</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone: (61-3) 9787 3245 Fax: (61-3) 9775 2142 Email: <a href="mailto:alison@i.net.au">alison@i.net.au</a></td>
<td>Phone: (61-3) 9777 0098 Fax: (61-3) 9777 0453 Email: <a href="mailto:info@studentguardians.com">info@studentguardians.com</a></td>
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<th>A&amp;J Student Care Services</th>
<th>Le Le Wang Student Care (A division of China Wise Pty Ltd)</th>
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<tr>
<td>PO Box 5139 Hughesdale VIC 3166</td>
<td>9/81 Dodds Street Southbank Victoria 3006</td>
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<td>Phone: (61-3) 8503 7878 Fax: (61-3) 8503 7979 Mob: (61-4) 19 319 633 Email: <a href="mailto:ajstudentcare@optusnet.com.au">ajstudentcare@optusnet.com.au</a></td>
<td>Phone: (61 3) 9645 9389 Fax: (61 3) 9682 9838 Mobile: (61) 0419 588 988 Email: <a href="mailto:dburnswl@telstra.com">dburnswl@telstra.com</a></td>
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<td><a href="http://www.guardians4student.com.au">www.guardians4student.com.au</a></td>
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<th>Mac &amp; Lee Associates Pty Ltd</th>
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<td>Level 2, 190 Queen Street Melbourne VIC 3000</td>
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b) The parents must nominate a relative or family friend to act as caregiver. (Option 3)

The nominated person must meet the following conditions:
- Be 21 years of age or older
- Have the right to stay in Australia until the student turns 18
- Be of sound character as evidenced by a police record check
- Must show an understanding of the responsibilities of a caregiver
- Must show an understanding of the obligations of student visa holders
- Must attend an initial interview with RMIT International Services (prior to approval)

As it may take the nominated person some time to provide the evidence required such applications need to be made well in advance. If the student is applying late it may not be possible to process the paper work quickly enough using this option. In such a case a caregiver company should be engaged.

**Accommodation Arrangements**

**What is appropriate accommodation?**

Students who are under 18 years of age must have permanent accommodation arranged before the visa documentation is issued. They are not able to use the temporary accommodation that is available to older students. There are three types of accommodation that are deemed to be appropriate for students who are under 18 years of age.

These three options are:

1) **Relative**

Students may live with a relative as approved by DIMA or RMIT. In order to be an approved relative they must meet the following criteria:
- Be over 21 years of age
- Be able to stay in Australia until the student has turned 18
- Be of sound character (as evidenced by a police record check)

2) **Homestay Accommodation**

Homestay accommodation found through an accredited homestay agency and approved by RMIT. International Services can place students in homestay accommodation upon request. A placement fee of $160.00 applies. Please see the homestay application form. Every effort is made to find a homestay to match the individual needs of the student. However there may be times when it is not possible to match all criteria.

3) **Approved Student Hostels**

Accommodation in one of the hostels approved for the care of students under 18 years of age. These student residences include:
What is not suitable accommodation for students under the age of 18?
Students under the age of 18 may not live in unsupervised apartments or houses. They must have a responsible adult living on the premises. A sibling or relative under the age of 21 is not considered to be a suitable responsible adult. Any change in accommodation for students under the age of 18 must be approved by International Services staff. Students found living in inappropriate accommodation may be reported to DIAC.

Students need to indicate their accommodation preference to International Services in order to have their documentation prepared for the visa application.

Students must obtain permission to change their accommodation or welfare arrangements prior to the change taking place.

Accommodation and Welfare Procedure:
1. Parent or Guardian completes the Student Visa Applicant – Under 18 Form nominating the caregiver arrangements and the accommodation.
2. The form is sent to the nominated caregiver to complete their section indicating that they accept the responsibility.
3. Confirmation of accommodation arrangements will be required.
4. The form is returned to RMIT International Services with the Offer Response Form.
5. The Accommodation and Welfare Arrangements are Assessed.
   - If Option 3 is chosen RMIT will initiate the interview process for the nominated caregiver. The nominated person will need to bring their passport and police record check to the interview. If the interview is successful and accommodation arrangements are satisfactory RMIT will issue the CAAW form for the visa application process.
   - If Option 2 is chosen and accommodation arrangements are satisfactory RMIT will issue the CAAW Form for the visa application process.

Any queries regarding the progress of the Accommodation and Welfare arrangements should be directed to:

International Services
RMIT University
Telephone: (61-3) 9925 5193
Fax: (61-3) 9663 6925
Email: care@rmit.edu.au