



# Myerscough College

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

## Residential Statement of Principles and Practice 2021-2022



At Myerscough College and University Centre Myerscough, all students can choose to live-in residential accommodation whilst they study. We know how important student life in Halls of Residence is for those who are settling into a new community and living away from home. All our residential accommodation is located at our Preston Campus.

Our Myerscough Residential Village is a key element of College and University Centre life and is fully compliant with National Minimum Standards for Residential Accommodation in Colleges (NMS).

Our aim for the Residential Village is for all students to have a positive experience, that enhances College life and helps to develop a sense of individual self-confidence and responsibility, whilst living safely, happily and studying effectively. We ensure that all students feel safe, comfortable and well-looked after in Halls where their My Myerscough Family experience has their welfare, wellbeing and development at the forefront of everything we do.

Living at Myerscough whilst attending a full-time or block release course at the Preston campus of the College can offer many benefits. Not only does it mean that students can access a College course if they live too far away to travel daily, but it is also a great way to feel connected, meet new friends, partake in additional social and extra-curricular activities and develop and grow in a safe, supportive and secure environment away from home.

We recognise that some students are ready for fully independent living, whilst others are looking for a more supportive College and University student experience. The younger students especially require a high degree of supervision and support. Every effort is made to match the right student to the right environment.



We believe that safe, welcoming and secure accommodation can enhance a student's experience at College and enable them to study productively, live independently and develop confidently. We endeavour to ensure that students are happy, comfortable and feel 'at home' in their accommodation. Students are encouraged to develop positive relationships with others and to feel part of the community in which they live.

We aim to promptly resolve difficulties, issues or concerns when they arise, with student safeguarding, welfare and well-being the main priority in any decisions and interventions. Living independently away from home brings responsibilities as well as independence and we hope that each student will develop confidence, responsibility and resilience during their time at the College. Students who are settled and happy where they are living are more likely to be motivated and effective in their studies.

The information within this document is specifically for students who will be under 18 at the commencement of the academic year who are considering living in Halls. It is designed to help prospective students and their parents/guardians/carers when deciding on the appropriateness of residential accommodation and for all



students to be clear of our Residential Principles and Practices. We do however, commit to high standards of care and support (principles and practices) for all our residential students. Many of the policies and procedures referred to are also applicable to resident students over the age of 18.

## Accommodation

Residential accommodation is available to those prospective students who, due to distance away from the College would have difficulty travelling on a daily basis, for block release, for specific needs or reasons or personal preference for the Halls experience, prefer to be accommodated on campus. The College does not arrange any off-site or non-college owned accommodation.

- Once a student is offered and accepted a place on a course at College, they may apply for residential accommodation from April onwards to the start of their course at College in September. The choice of room types will be dependent on age, gender, individual circumstances and availability in line with NMS. Applications for residential accommodation are reviewed during June/July by the Residential Services team who allocate rooms based on a range of factors which includes age, distance and specific needs (Allocation of Student Residential Accommodation policy). Residential students with identified additional needs are invited to discuss and plan their transition into Halls.

- Where it is not possible to offer a room of the student's choice, an alternative is offered or the student is placed on a waiting list.
- A range of accommodation is offered in halls of residence (twin/single/accessible rooms with shared/en-suite bathrooms) at varying prices.
- All under 18 students are accommodated on the main College campus where arrangements are in place to ensure high standards of welfare and safeguarding through a designated team of Residential Support Officers supported by a number of cross College departments.
- Students under the age of 18 at the commencement of the academic year are accommodated in same gender halls of residence, this will apply throughout the academic year however rooms changes may also occur for students who turn 18 in year.
- These halls are separate to those for over 18-year-old students who also live on campus. See below for Transgender student room allocation.
- Students who start in year are allocated appropriate accommodation in consideration with the Allocation of Accommodation policy and NMS including those on block release.

## Safeguarding, Welfare and Support

### Medical and Health Care

Students are requested to complete a health questionnaire prior to starting to ensure all appropriate health and support plans and adjustments can be made prior to start including the need for any staff training and / or liaison with health care professionals. Students are expected and encouraged to inform residential support staff of any changes in their medical or health care needs including their mental health during their time as a student at the College.

The College has excellent links with the local General Practitioner surgery and Pharmacy services. A partnership agreement ensures effective partnership working where students are able to register with Garstang Medical Practice with allocated appointments for Myerscough students and a pharmacy delivery service. The College can support and signpost students access to a dentist if required.

The college is committed to supporting students' physical and mental wellbeing and provides access to a range of credible health and wellbeing information and agencies via the student portal.

Smoking is restricted to dedicated areas. Drugs or being under the influence of substances are not permitted on campus and if found to be in residency, this will most likely result in exclusion from Halls of Residence in line with the College Positive Behaviour Management Policy. Alcohol is not permitted for under 18s. Students will be supported to access appropriate support services.

### Financial Support

Financial support may be available to assist students with the cost of living in halls of residence through means-tested bursaries and various scholarships (FE Bursary Fund policy and procedure).

Information on financial support for all students is available on the College website or through the Student Finance team and the Core Support team where individuals can make appointments to discuss their financial circumstances.

### Catering Facilities

- All under 18yr olds are required to be on a minimum of a 5-day catering package which are adequate in nutrition, quality, choice and variety.
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- The College has several catering outlets on site close to the Residential Village providing 5 or 7-day catering packages.



- The College catering outlets can provide special diets on request and students are asked to disclose any particular dietary needs at the time of application for accommodation for consideration. The Catering team liaise with students and their parents/guardians/carers on requirements prior to and during their course and where appropriate an individual risk assessment or support plan is put in place.
- All students have access to suitable means of hygienically preparing basic food (snacks) at reasonable times.

Safeguarding, Welfare, Support and Guidance is offered and maintained through dedicated teams in the Core with access to:

- 24 hr Residential Support Officer Team (RSO) led by a Residential Support Manager (RSM)
- Safeguarding and Support Team led by a Safeguarding and Support Manager
- 24 hrs 365 days Campus Security Team
- Campus Support Officer, term time only
- BACP Registered Counsellors
- Inclusive Learning
- FREDIE co-ordinator
- Chaplain
- Careers Advisor

Credible health information and support agencies via the student intranet.

Students will be provided with details of an independent person and a range of agencies should they wish to discuss issues with someone unconnected to the College.

Halls of residence for 16-18 year olds are all protected by access control, CCTV and vetted staff in line with Safer Recruitment. The College has identified and approved significant investments for the installation of enhanced access control for all Halls within the Residential Village.



Whilst monitoring arrangements are in place at the College, there is an expectation that students will respect the requirements and expectations made of them through College policies and procedures and under their Residential agreement and Student Charter in order for their time at College to be successful.

Residential Support Team (Residential Support Officers and Residential Support Manager) are on duty or on-call on a rota system, 24 hours per day, 7 days during term time and holiday periods where students remain in Halls.

In addition to this:

- The Residential Manager resides on site.
- Designated Safeguarding Leads are on a rota duty 24hrs, all year round.
- All students are expected to follow specific rules relating to behaviour. In addition, under 18yr old residential students are required to abide by supplementary rules as set out in the Living in Halls booklet provided during the application process and available on the student intranet, portal and website.
- All 16-18yr old students have a termly individual tutorial with a nominated RSO.
- Other identified groups of students receive individual monthly tutorials with their nominated RSO, such as with students with SEND, Looked After Children and Care Leavers and other identified students requiring targeted support.
- Identified students who require additional support, care and guidance are provided with individual support plans and intervention.

These rules are designed to ensure the safety and welfare of all students. Students who turn 18 during the academic year and choose to continue to reside in an under 18 hall, are required to adhere to the supplementary rules for under 18 year olds relating to the possession and consumption of alcohol within the hall and visitors to the hall.

Parents (16-18) are also asked to read and confirm they also understand the rules and are asked to support the College in ensuring under 18-year-old students abide by College policies.

Students are monitored whilst on the College campus and arrangements are in place to allow individuals to leave the campus during the day, in an evening and at weekend in a controlled manner. Parents/guardians /carers of under 18 yr olds are responsible for the authorisation of the student to be off campus overnight through a parent portal system. Checks take place each night on under 18s and if a student is found to be missing, parents/guardians/carers and if applicable, the police are informed. Spot checks are also undertaken. Students who undertake work experience off campus whilst residing in Halls, are subject to additional monitoring in particular if this necessitates early mornings, evenings or weekends.



## Recreational Provision

The College offers a wide range of activities which are organised for students and students are actively encouraged to participate in these. The Student Union Liaison Officer produces a programme of recreational activities for the students on a termly basis. The programme is publicised across Halls, College and on social media.

Students have access to the College sport and gym facilities and Golf facilities through subsidised membership.

FREDIE Principles (Fairness, Respect, Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Engagement)

The College will endeavour to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate students with learning disabilities, religious, dietary, language or cultural needs wherever possible and is able to meet the needs of most students (FREDIE policy, Inclusive Learning policy and procedure). The College cannot guarantee that facilities will be available to effectively support individuals with significant medical or other requirements.

- Transition planning in place.
- Transgender students can choose to sleep in a room of their self-identified gender identity. Transgender guidelines are available for students and staff.
- Individual plans are created in collaboration with all appropriate people to meet all support needs. Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans, Support Plans and Risk assessments are developed in collaboration with students, families, inclusive learning, support staff for identified students.
- Bullying and any forms of harassment will not be tolerated.
- Prayer, faith and contemplation areas are available on site.
- College has access to a College Chaplain as well as a range of other faiths and religious services if required.

Further related policies can be found on the College Website or available on request.

If you have any further questions about the provision of accommodation at Myerscough College, please contact the Residential Services Team: [reshelp@myerscough.ac.uk](mailto:reshelp@myerscough.ac.uk) or on 01995 642324.