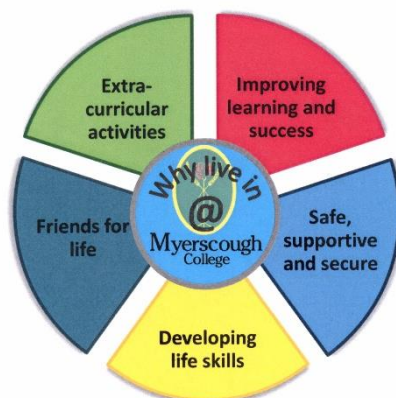


Statement of Principles and Practice

The College provides residential accommodation at its Preston campus for students who are over the age of 16 at the start of the academic year undertaking a full-time/block release course at the College. Living in accommodation at the College not only enables a student to undertake their course but also gives them an opportunity to benefit from the residential experience.



The information below is for students who will be under 18 at the commencement of the academic year who are considering living in residential accommodation. The following statements are designed to help prospective students and their parents/guardians/carers when deciding on the appropriateness of residential accommodation. Many of the policies and procedures referred to are also applicable to resident students over the age of 18. Any relevant distinctions are made within the documents.

Our Accommodation

Myerscough College recognises that it has an essential role to play in providing an appropriate environment in which residential students can safely live and study (Safeguarding, Child Protection, Prevent and Missing from Education policy and procedure) and that it has a responsibility to ensure that students, their parents/guardians/carers and staff are aware of the policies and procedures that are in place in order to ensure that this environment exists.

- Residential accommodation is available to those prospective students who, due to distance away from the College or location, would have difficulty travelling on a daily basis or for specific reasons need to be accommodated on campus. The College does not arrange any off-site accommodation.
- A range of accommodation is offered in halls of residence (twin/single/disabled 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 to meet the National Care Standards

requirements. These halls are separate to those for over 18 year old students who also live on campus.

- 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. 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 and procedure). 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.
- 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 (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion 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.
- Transgender students can choose to sleep in a room of their self-identified gender or a gender-neutral room.
- 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 is available on the College website or through Finance and the Core.
- 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 is put in place.
- Welfare and support is offered through dedicated teams in the Core with access to counsellors, careers advisor, finance, medical services, inclusive learning, multi faith prayer room, Chaplain, and other multi-disciplinary agencies and organisations. Students will be provided with the details of an independent person or agency should they wish to discuss issues with someone unconnected to the College.
- Once in accommodation, students normally remain in the room allocated to them. Any requests to change rooms will be accommodated wherever possible subject to completion of a Room Change Request form and the agreement of the Residential Operations Manager and Residential Support staff.
- All students are expected to follow specific rules relating to behaviour (The Myerscough Code). In addition, under 18 year old residential students are required to abide by supplementary rules as set out in the Living in Halls of Residence booklet provided as part of the accommodation application process. 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 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.
- The care and safeguarding of students whilst at College is maintained through a team of Residential Support Officers and safeguarding staff with cover provided on a 24 hour, 7 days a week basis with staff of both genders. Halls of residence are protected by access control, CCTV and vetted staff. It should be noted that whilst monitoring arrangements are in place at the College, there is an expectation that students will respect the requirements made of them through College policies and procedures and under their Catering and Residential contract and the Living in Halls of Residence booklet in order for their time at College to be successful.

- 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 are responsible for the authorisation of their son/daughter/ward 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 to ensure a student has arrived home safely.
- 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 and Enrichment Coordinator produces a programme of recreational activities for the students on a termly basis. The programme is publicised across College and on social media.

Further Information

Information about the nature and organisation of accommodation at the College can be found on the College website on the Residency pages. The College website also gives information about the process for the allocation of rooms, on-site facilities, catering services, student life, fees and safety and safeguarding.

The Living in Halls of Residence handbook provides students and their parents/guardian/carer with all the information needed to help prepare for moving in and what can be expected whilst at College. It also details some important rules and regulations which students are required to adhere to. The handbook is available as part of the application for accommodation process or on request.

Policies

Further information on the College policies referred to within this Statement of Principles and Practice is available on the College Website:

<https://www.myerscough.ac.uk/policies/>

If you have any further questions about the provision of accommodation at Myerscough College, please contact the Residential Services Team in the first instance, either at reshelp@myerscough.ac.uk or on 01995 642324.