

INTO GUARDIANSHIP PACKAGE INFORMATION

INFORMATION DOCUMENT FOR UNDER 18 APPLICANTS AND THEIR PARENTS/LEGAL GUARDIANS - RELEASED 25/03/2026, UPDATED 27/07/2026

What is a guardian and a guardianship service?

A guardian is a UK-based adult over the age of 21 who takes responsibility for an international student under-18 while they study in the UK. The guardian acts as the student's local representative and emergency contact, bridging the gap between parents abroad, the centre, and the student.

A guardianship service is a structured arrangement that provides a designated, responsible adult from an organisation to act as a guardian for the under-18 when their parents/legal guardian are not present (e.g. when the under-18 is studying abroad).

Does INTO provide a guardianship service?

INTO does not directly provide a guardianship service, but has partnered with Sable Guardians (an AEGIS accredited UK-based guardianship organisation) to provide an INTO Guardianship Package.

INTO and Sable Guardians work together to ensure a student's guardianship registration process is as straightforward as possible and the cost of the INTO Guardianship Service is added to the student's invoice. Sable Guardians then provide the guardianship service.

Who are Sable Guardians?

Sable Guardians are a professional AEGIS accredited UK-based guardianship organisation. Sable Guardians provide dedicated guardianship support while your son/daughter aged under 18 studies in the UK. You can find out more information about Sable Guardians here:

<https://www.sableinternationalguardians.co.uk>.

How much does the INTO arranged guardianship service cost?

INTO has partnered with Sable Guardians to provide the INTO Guardianship Package. The cost to the student is £400 per term (for Academic Year 2026/27) and will be added to the student's invoice.

What is the difference between the INTO Guardianship Package and other guardianship services?

INTO has partnered with Sable Guardians to provide the INTO Guardianship Package. This partnership is based on a shared understanding of the importance of safeguarding and wellbeing, and we are confident that the INTO Guardianship Package, with the guardianship provided by Sable Guardians, provides an appropriate level of support for under-18s studying at our international study centres.

The INTO Guardianship Package gives parents/legal guardians immediate peace of mind that your child is supported by a fully vetted, experienced UK-based guardian. Instead of navigating unfamiliar options, the INTO Guardianship Packages offers the benefit of a trusted provider aligned with the international study centre.

Sable Guardians' service agreed as part of the INTO Guardianship Package includes an in-person welcome as part of the international study centre's induction programme, 24/7 emergency support, regular wellbeing check-ins and clear communication. Each centre will have a key contact at Sable Guardians to help communication and coordination.

Quality and provision varies across guardianship companies, but by choosing the INTO Guardianship Package, parents/legal guardians know they are selecting an appropriate guardianship service.

Additionally, the INTO Guardianship Package does not require a deposit or contingency funds - the payment is clear and transparent.

What does a guardianship service provide?

A guardianship service is a professional organisation based in the UK that:

- Acts as the student's local guardian
- Provides 24/7 emergency contact and support
- Liaises with parents/guardians and the centre
- Offers welfare oversight and safeguarding support

A practical example of when a guardian would provide support could include accompanying a student to hospital in an emergency or supporting them with a welfare issue.

What does AEGIS accredited mean in relation to guardianship services?

AEGIS is the only independent body offering guardianship accreditation in the UK. They set the highest standards for educational guardianship, putting guardianship organisations through a rigorous inspection process and helping guardianship organisations work to best practice in safeguarding and student welfare. This means that all AEGIS accredited guardianship organisations have passed a full inspection of their care of students and their business practices.

Is an AEGIS accredited UK-based guardianship service mandatory for INTO students living in a PBSA (Purpose Built Student Accommodation)?

Yes – an AEGIS accredited UK-based guardianship service is mandatory for under-18 students, who live in PBSA (Purpose Built Student Accommodation) rather than INTO arranged accommodation.

How does an applicant arrange their guardianship through INTO?

Applicants will be asked to confirm their guardianship choice as part of the application process. Applicants will need to confirm their accommodation type and if this choice means they require a guardianship, they will be prompted to confirm that they wish to choose the INTO Guardianship Package. They will also be required to complete and return the Sable Guardians Registration Form.

When is payment required for the INTO Guardianship Package?

The guardianship package will be added to the student's invoice of fees, and an updated statement will be provided with the confirmation pack. Payment of the guardianship package is not required to confirm but will be collected when the student pays the remainder of their fees.

When must the guardianship service be in place?

The guardianship service must be in place to confirm the students place on the course – whether it is the INTO arranged guardianship or if the applicant arranges an alternative guardianship. In terms of when the guardianship service starts, this must be in place on the day of arrival to the UK.

When and how will the guardianship service make contact, ahead of the student's arrival?

INTO will provide details of confirmed students, who have selected and paid for the INTO Guardianship Service, to Sable Guardians two weeks prior to the course start date (and daily from that point on for any students who confirm later). Applicants should therefore expect to be contacted by Sable Guardians in the two-week period ahead of the course start date (for students who confirm later than two weeks before the start date, Sable Guardians will be in touch soon after).

Sable Guardians will make contact via their central email address Guardians.INTO@sableinternational.com. Sable Guardians' welcome email will include contact details for the student's named guardian, who will also be copied into the email.

Please note, although Sable Guardians will make contact ahead of the course start date, the guardianship service starts on the day of arrival to the UK.

How long is a guardianship service required for?

The guardianship service is required whilst the student is under 18. The INTO Guardianship Package is offered in termly periods.

How long will the INTO Guardianship Package be in place for?

The INTO Guardianship Package will be split into termly periods and be in place to cover the entire period where the student is under 18. This will be rounded up to the nearest term.

For example:

- If the student's course commences on 1st September, and they turn 18 on 15th February. They will be under 18 during term 1 and term 2 of their course therefore a two-term guardianship package will be added for this student. The guardianship service will be complete at the end of term 2.

What is the process for sponsored students?

Sponsored students must adhere to the Under 18 policy and have a Guardianship Service in place if living in a PBSA (Purpose Built Student Accommodation).

Sponsored students are required to appoint and pay for the INTO Guardianship Service, or may use an alternative guardianship service. Any alternative guardianship provider must be based in the UK and registered with AEGIS. The package must be in place to cover the entire period the student is under 18. Whether the INTO Guardianship Service or an alternative guardianship service, the student is liable for the cost as this will not be paid by their sponsor.

Any delay in appointing and paying for a guardianship service could delay the application process, including CAS issuance.

Can a sponsored student assign their sponsor (embassy/cultural attaché) in the UK as their guardian, rather than use the INTO Guardian Package?

No, this is not possible as it does not satisfy the requirements of the policy. If a student is living in PBSA (Purpose Built Student Accommodation), they must have an AEGIS accredited UK-based guardianship service in place.

What is the process for UK based students?

Students who normally reside in the UK must still comply with the Under 18 policy. Therefore, if they plan to reside in PBSA (Purpose Built Student Accommodation), they will need an AEGIS approved UK-based guardianship service in place.

Can under-18s use a different guardianship service the INTO Guardianship Package?

Students may use an alternative guardianship service.

Any alternative guardianship provider must be based in the UK and registered with AEGIS. The package must be in place to cover the entire period the student is under 18. A confirmation letter or contract from the guardianship company will be required to be provided as evidence of registration as part of the offer confirmation process.