

Title:	Executive Summary regarding the draft Policy for Supporting New Student Parents
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Circulation:	Associate Deans, Heads of Schools, Heads of School Administration, Faculty PSS staff
Action Required:	For initiation of consultation within Schools

1. Background

- 1.1 The Equality Challenge Unit (ECU) recommends that HEIs consider developing a policy and procedures on supporting students during pregnancy and maternity to ensure they receive appropriate information on the support provided by their HEI in relation to pregnancy, maternity, paternity and adoption. The Division of Student Life, in collaboration with the TLSO, has produced a draft *Policy for Supporting New Student Parents* based on the recommendations contained in the ECU's [Student pregnancy and maternity: implications for higher education institutions](#) and from looking at other universities' arrangements for student maternity and paternity. There is also, already, a policy in place for [changes to PGR study](#) and an associated one for [funded PGR students](#) as well as associated procedures.
- 1.2 The University is not legally obliged to have a policy in place but it is considered good practice and an increasing number of other institutions are following suit and introducing such policies. Feedback has also been received from a number of Schools requesting an institutional policy. The TLSO has liaised with the University lawyers regarding the draft policy.

2. Format of the Policy and associated documents

- 2.1 The draft policy has been produced alongside a supporting document, *Procedures for Supporting New Student Parents*. In addition, the existing *Student Support Form: Pregnancy and Maternity* has been updated (and renamed as *New Student Parent Support Form*) to accompany the new draft policy and procedure documents. The updated form will be published once the policy/procedures are approved.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 ADs (with the assistance of Faculty PSS staff) are requested to initiate consultation in Schools via Teaching and Learning Committees, and return consolidated Faculty responses to the Head of Operations, Division of Student Life (ian.bradley@manchester.ac.uk) by the end of July 2016.
- 3.2 UMSU staff are requested to communicate with student reps regarding the draft policy and return responses to the Head of Operations, Division of Student Life (ian.bradley@manchester.ac.uk) by the end of July 2016.
- 3.3 Following collation of feedback, any necessary further revisions will be made to the policy, prior to consideration and approval by TLG and Senate. It is expected that the policy would be implemented during the 2016/17 academic year, possibly from January 2017.