

Student Code of Conduct

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1.0 Purpose

All students of the University are required at all times to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner in their day to day activities, including in their dealings with other students, staff and external organisations. Students are also required under the University's Terms and Conditions to comply with all relevant University policies and regulations. The University's Terms and Conditions and relevant student policies and procedures can be found on the University's web page at www.tees.ac.uk/studentregulations.

The Student Code of Conduct sets out the expectations the University has in respect of the behaviour of all of its students. It outlines examples of behaviours that the University may deem to be misconduct (although the examples given are not exhaustive).

The University has formal disciplinary procedures that are followed in cases where students are found to have breached the Student Code of Conduct, the 'Student Disciplinary Regulations' ("the Disciplinary Regulations"). Any action taken under the Disciplinary Regulations can lead to expulsion, suspension, restrictions and formal reprimands depending on the severity of the breach. The University however reserves the right to deal with breaches of the Student Code of Conduct via any of its other student regulations (for example, Fitness to Practise, Fitness to Study, Academic Misconduct, etc.).

When considering what action to take against a student the University will consider the severity of the breach, the impact on other students and staff, and any previous incidents of misconduct. Accumulated breaches of the Student Code of Conduct may result in more severe sanctions being applied and a formal consideration of the implications for the programme of study.

2.0 Scope

The Student Code of Conduct applies to all students of the University and to the following circumstances:

- activities in which they engage in their capacity as students of the University;
- or
- services or facilities they enjoy by virtue of being a student of the University (e.g. halls of residence, sports facilities, etc.); or
- their presence in the vicinity of, or their access to, any premises owned, leased or managed by Teesside University; or

- any activity not covered above, which is considered to adversely affect the safety, interests or reputation of the University, its students, employees or authorised representatives, as outlined in this Code.
(N.B. Any student undertaking a University affiliated course at a Further Education College is subject to the conduct rules applicable to that institution.)

3.0 Misconduct Offences

The following examples of misconduct are not exhaustive and the University reserves the right to consider/investigate any complaints not specifically listed below. The University may decide to take action for misconduct offences whether they take place on University premises or elsewhere, including on social media. The term “Person” means any student, employee, visitor, subcontractor or other authorised representative of the University.

3.1 Behaviour towards others

- a) Students shall act with respect and reasonable consideration towards every Person;
- b) Students shall not behave in a disorderly, abusive, threatening, intimidating, indecent, slanderous, libelous or offensive manner (whether by actions, speaking or in writing, including by electronic means);
- c) Students shall not behave in a physically violent manner (including, but not limited to, punching, kicking, slapping, pulling hair, biting, pushing, and shoving);
- d) Students shall not commit sexual misconduct (including, but not limited to, engaging or attempting to engage in kissing, touching inappropriately through clothes, sexual intercourse or a sexual act without consent, sharing private sexual materials of another person without consent, inappropriately showing sexual organs to another person and making unwanted remarks of a sexual nature);
- e) Students shall not steal, misuse, deface or damage property belonging to any Person;
- (f) Students shall comply with any reasonable instructions, including producing appropriate identification, as requested by any Person in the execution of their duties;
- (g) Students shall not obstruct, disrupt or interfere with, the duties or activities of any Person or disrupt or interfere with any academic, administrative, sporting, social or other University Activities;
- (h) Students shall not knowingly publish, be published in or distribute a poster, notice, sign or any publication which may be considered offensive, intimidating, threatening, indecent or illegal, or which may be considered to make others fearful, anxious or apprehensive;

- (i) Students shall not offer or give money, gifts or other incentives to any Person with the intention of inducing that Person to perform his/ her job improperly or to reward him/her for doing so;
- (j) Students shall not engage in conduct which unjustifiably infringes freedom of thought or expression whilst on University premises or engaged in University work, study or activity;
- (k) Students shall not harass, victimise or discriminate against any Person on grounds of age, disability, race, ethnic or national origin, religion or beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy, maternity, marriage or civil partnership or socio-economic background.

3.2 Bringing the University into disrepute

Students shall not exhibit any behaviour or engage in any activity, whether within the University premises or elsewhere, which has the potential to damage or has damaged the good name of the University (without prejudice to the right to fair and justified comment and criticism).

3.3 Use of buildings, grounds & equipment

- (a) Students shall not litter on campus grounds;
- (b) Students shall not steal, deface, misuse, misappropriate or damage any property belonging to the University or associated organisations, whether deliberately or recklessly;
- (c) Students shall not take part in any trespass against, or unauthorised occupation of, any part of the University premises (including any halls of residence). Occupation will be deemed to be unauthorised if continued after reasonable notice to desist has been given or if the student has occupied premises, or a part thereof, to which access by students is normally prohibited;
- (d) Students must comply with relevant regulations regarding the use of recording devices, mobile phones, personal music equipment, etc. when they are in any teaching/learning setting, examination or library premises;
- (e) Students shall not engage in any trade or business, or engage in the activities of any other form of employment, on University premises, other than employment by the University or Students' Union, without relevant permissions;
- (f) Students shall not misuse or make unauthorised use of University premises or items of property, including IT facilities or safety equipment;
- (g) Students shall not breach the conditions of a tenancy/licence agreement in respect of University residential accommodation;
- (h) Students shall not use or misuse, produce, trade, store or transport drugs or other illegal substances or keep in University accommodations, any paraphernalia that could be used in relation to drug use or misuse;

- (i) Students shall not breach any specific rules adopted by a service, School, Department or building within the University (for example, Library Regulations, rules relating to use of the University Gym, etc).

3.4 Health and Safety

- (a) Students shall not behave in a way that may affect the health and safety of, cause or potentially cause injury or harm to a Person;
- (b) Students shall not behave in a way that may or does lead to the activating of a fire or smoke alarm or otherwise misuse fire safety equipment (including in Halls of Residence);
- (c) Students shall not smoke in any areas other than those designated as authorised smoking areas;
- (d) Outside the requirement of a course, students shall not keep, carry on their person, use or threaten to use any offensive weapons, acid or other irritants, imitation firearms, ammunition, fireworks, explosives or any highly combustible materials or any article deemed to be an offensive weapon even if properly licensed on University premises.

3.5 University administration, policies & regulations

- (a) Students shall comply with all relevant University rules, regulations and policies;
- (b) Students shall not be engaged in fraud, deceit, falsification of documents, deception or dishonestly in relation to the University or any Person.

3.6 Compliance with the Student Code of Conduct and Adjudication Procedure

- (a) Students shall not assist, encourage or incite any other student to behave in a way which may constitute a breach of the Student Code of Conduct;
- (b) Students may be held responsible for any breach of the Student Code of Conduct committed by any person whom they have invited to any part of the University (including Halls of Residence);
- (c) Students may be held responsible for any misconduct which amounts to a breach of the Student Code of Conduct which occurred prior to enrolment at the University and which was not previously known to the University, which raises questions about the fitness of the student to remain a member of the University community, poses a threat to any Person or the discipline and good order of the University, or raises questions about the student's fitness to be admitted to and to practice any particular profession to which the student's course or programme of study leads to directly;

- (d) Students shall co-operate with the implementation of the Student Code of Conduct and any associated disciplinary action;
- (e) Students shall comply with the outcome of any disciplinary process as a result of a breach of the Student Code of Conduct;
- (f) Students shall not intimidate, victimise or threaten any person who has raised a complaint against them in respect of a breach of the Student Code of Conduct, or any witnesses who are involved in that complaint;
- (g) Students shall not make false, frivolous, malicious or vexatious complaints about another person. Where they do they may themselves be deemed to have breached the Student Code of Conduct and will be subject to the procedures in investigating this breach.

3.7 Compliance with the Law

- (a) Students shall not engage in conduct which constitutes a criminal offence within the premises of the University, at institutions where students are placed or visiting as part of their studies, or elsewhere;
- (b) Students shall report to the University immediately any instances in which they have been involved which gave rise to them being arrested, under police investigation, charged or convicted of a criminal offence;
- (c) Students shall not deliberately do, or fail to do, anything which causes the University to be in breach of a statutory obligation;
- (d) Students shall declare upon enrolment any criminal convictions which they have received prior to their commencement at the University.

3.8 Use of Social Media

- (a) Students shall not set up social media sites, post new, or reply to existing posts, on any form of social media that contravenes the University's IT Acceptable Use Policy. Although not exhaustive, students shall not use social media, including whilst on placement or working in work based situations or elsewhere, in a manner that may be considered as:
 - i. Bullying or harassment
 - ii. Professional misconduct
 - iii. Bringing the University into disrepute
 - iv. Showing a lack of respect and/or reasonable consideration towards others.

3.9 Academic Misconduct

- (a) Students must attend and fully engage in all learning activities and adhere to all external body requirements (e.g. attendance requirements set by UKVI);
- (b) Students must conduct themselves appropriately in all programme-related activities, including placements;
- (c) Students must comply with national regulatory framework/professional body/ external Health Trust, expectations, as required for the standards of professional conduct expected at the point in training that the concern is raised;
- (d) Students enrolled on programmes governed by professional, statutory and regulatory bodies must comply with the requirements of the University's Fitness to Practise Policy and act in a manner which protects present and future patients, service users or clients at all times;
- (e) Students shall not participate in any assessment offences, including making use of unfair means in any University assessment or assisting another Person to make use of such unfair means;
- (f) Students shall not participate in any misconduct in the course of carrying out any research activities.

3.10 Misconduct in Halls of Residence

- (a) Students shall comply with the conditions relating to standards, behaviour and domestic arrangements required in Halls of Residence as outlined in their tenancy agreement;
- (b) Students shall comply with a direction of any Person, in the execution of their responsibilities in relation to the Conditions of Halls of Residence.