

Student Behavioural Code of Conduct

Effective from 1 September 2026

Introduction

1. It is the University's expectation that its Students will treat all members of the University community with respect, including other Students, Staff, visitors and third parties, and those in the local community. There is also an expectation that Students will behave in a way that does not interfere with or cause disruption to the normal operations of the University and its community or damage the University's reputation.

Scope of this Behavioural Code of Conduct (the 'Code')

2. The University's jurisdiction over Students' conduct is not limited to University property (meaning premises owned, managed or leased by the University) or solely within academic time and includes Student's use of digital environments including social media. This means, for example, that behaviour off campus and during vacations, weekends, evenings, on placements and field trips and other activities may be taken into consideration. It also means that behaviour in a social setting (for example in accommodation, the community or online space) may be subject to the provisions of this Code.
3. Reference to Student or Students in this Code includes all registered Students of the University.
4. The types of misconduct listed below are not exhaustive, any behaviour that meets the definition of misconduct below may be subject to a disciplinary investigation.

Misconduct under the Code

5. When a Student's conduct falls below the standards expected by the University this will be considered through the University's [Student Conduct Disciplinary Procedure](#) or [Student Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Procedure](#). Sanctions against unacceptable behaviour will, as far as possible, be applied consistently in the interests of everyone's learning, teaching and social experience.
6. Registering at the University confirms that Students have [agreed to comply](#) with and keep themselves familiar with this Code and the University's Rules, Regulations, Codes of Practice, Policies and Procedures relating to their enrolment on their course of study as updated from time to time.
7. Active involvement or collusion in any form of misconduct e.g. promotion of or contribution to the offence will be considered misconduct in itself. Failure to prevent an offence or inaction will not normally be considered misconduct.

8. The University protects and promotes freedom of speech and freedom of academic thought within the law. This Code is not intended to limit the expression of controversial, offensive or alternative views or beliefs unless such expression breaches the University's [Code of Practice for Freedom of Speech](#).

Sanctions

9. Likely sanctions are given for each type of misconduct, but these are indicative only and sanctions are considered on a case by case basis. Repeated behaviour is more likely to warrant a more severe sanction than necessarily listed.

Types of misconduct (examples and likely sanctions included in **Annex A**)

1. General misconduct

- 1.1. Acting dishonestly, including theft, deceit or deception
- 1.2. Behaviour likely to cause injury or impair safety on University premises or during University activities
- 1.3. Misuse or unauthorised use of University premises, facilities or property including IT facilities
- 1.4. Disruption or interference with University activities whether on University premises or elsewhere
- 1.5. Intentional or reckless damage to University property or property in our wider community
- 1.6. Antisocial behaviour, whether on University premises or elsewhere
- 1.7. Use of inappropriate or aggressive behaviours or language directed towards others whether on University premises or elsewhere
- 1.8. Breach of any residence contract in relation to accommodation owned, managed or leased by the University
- 1.9. Improper use of University intellectual property or breach of copyright rules
- 1.10. Academic misconduct within the assessment process
- 1.11. Behaviour which compromises the University's ability to fulfil its obligations in relation to Freedom of Speech
- 1.12. Failure to comply with a previously imposed interim precautionary measure, disciplinary sanction, or failure to cooperate with a University disciplinary investigation.
- 1.13. Behaviour which brings or may bring the University into disrepute.
- 1.14. Conduct that constitutes or may constitute a criminal offence or unlawful behaviour.

2. Sexual misconduct (unwanted conduct or attempted conduct of a sexual nature)

- 2.1. Inappropriate touching or physical interaction, in what may reasonably be perceived to be an intentional and sexual manner, without consent

- 2.2. Attempting to engage or engaging in sexual intercourse or a sexual act including penetration without consent
- 2.3. Sexual verbal abuse, meaning unwanted remarks or noises that may reasonably be perceived to be of a sexual nature
- 2.4. Sexual harassment and stalking
- 2.5. Creating or distributing sexually explicit materials without the consent of those portrayed; or sending such materials without consent of the receiver
- 2.6. Public exposure of genitals

3. Discrimination, harassment or hate-related misconduct

- 3.1. Verbal or non-verbal bullying or harassment i.e. behaviour that is offensive, intimidating or humiliating
- 3.2. Creating, sharing or distributing discriminatory or hate-related materials, comments or literature
- 3.3. Discrimination of any kind, including direct discrimination, discrimination based on perceptions or association and indirect discrimination
- 3.4. Misconduct of all other types that has a hate related element

4. Drug related misconduct

- 4.1. Possession of drug paraphernalia in University accommodation
- 4.2. Possession of illegal substances
- 4.3. Manufacturing, dealing, supplying, or intending to supply illegal substances whether on University premises or elsewhere

5. Dangerous behaviours

- 5.1. Involvement in behaviours or any event or activity that involves force, coercion or manipulation of Students to their physical or mental detriment
- 5.2. Involvement in more serious behaviours or any event or activity which involves force, coercion or manipulation of Students to their physical or mental detriment
- 5.3. Organisation or being in a position of responsibility at events that involve behaviours or any event or activity that involves force or coercion or manipulation of Students to their physical or mental detriment

Annex A Types of misconduct covered by this Code with examples and likely sanctions

Misconduct type	Examples (not exhaustive)	Likely level of <i>Procedure</i> ¹ and sanctions
1. General misconduct		
1.1 Acting dishonestly, including theft, deceit or deception	– Falsification or misrepresentation of documentation provided as part of University processes including during admissions – Misleading attendance monitoring e.g. swiping in for others or asking others to swipe in for you – Using another student's smartcard to provide a false identity	Level 2 or 3 – Written warning – Final warning – Suspension (L3 only) – Expulsion (L3 only)
1.2 Behaviour likely to cause injury or impair safety on University premises or during University activities	– Not using required personal protective equipment – Operating machinery in an unsafe manner – Not following require chemical and biological safety handling protocols – Allowing 'tailgating' on entry to University premises – Blocking fire exits or holding open fire doors	Level 1 or 2 – Minor misconduct – Fine – Written warning – Final warning (L2 only)
1.3 Misuse or unauthorised use of University premises, facilities or property including IT facilities	– See the Policy on Use of IT Facilities – Sharing of University log in or system information – In relation to hate speech (see 3.1 to 3.4)	Level 2 or 3 – Minor misconduct – Written warning – Final warning – Suspension (L3 only) – Expulsion (L3 only)
1.4 Disruption or interference with University activities whether on University premises or elsewhere	– Disrupting events or meetings – Blocking access to rooms or buildings – Tampering with IT systems, alarms etc. – Unauthorised occupation of buildings or rooms – Interrupting teaching or assessments – Ignoring reasonable instructions of University staff	Level 2 or 3 – Fine – Written warning – Final warning – Suspension (L3 only) – Expulsion (L3 only)

¹ [Student Conduct Disciplinary Procedure](#)

Misconduct type	Examples (not exhaustive)	Likely level of Procedure ¹ and sanctions
1.5 Intentional or reckless damage to University property or property in our wider community	– Graffiti – Damage to University or public buildings – Damage to equipment in laboratories, studios etc. – Misusing fire safety equipment	Level 1 or 2 – Minor misconduct – Fine – Written warning – Final warning (L2 only)
1.6 Antisocial behaviour, whether on University premises or elsewhere	– Persistent disruptive noise – Failure to respect shared or public spaces e.g. littering – Rude or disruptive behaviour causing alarm or distress	Level 1 or 2 – Minor misconduct – Fine – Written warning – Final warning (L2 only)
1.7 Use of inappropriate or aggressive behaviours or language directed towards others whether on University premises or elsewhere	– Physical violence – Threatening, coercive, indecent, abusive, aggressive, humiliating, inconsiderate or disrespectful behaviour or language whether in person or via text, telephone, email or social media	Level 2 or 3 – Minor misconduct – Written warning – Final warning (L2+ only) – Suspension (L3 only) – Expulsion (L3 only)
1.8 Breach of any residence contract in relation to accommodation owned, managed or leased by the University	– Misconduct in relation to University accommodation	Level 1 – Minor misconduct – Fine – Written warning – Attendance at training Serious or persistent misconduct referred to Level 2 or 3 with appropriate sanction
1.9 Improper use of University intellectual property or breach of copyright rules	– Unauthorised online publication of University teaching or research materials – Unauthorised sharing of University teaching or research materials beyond registered students and staff, including in relation to AI models – Significant breach of copyright rules	Level 2 or 3 – Minor misconduct – Written warning – Final warning – Suspension (L3 only) – Expulsion (L3 only)

Misconduct type	Examples (not exhaustive)	Likely level of Procedure ¹ and sanctions
1.10 Academic misconduct within the assessment process	– See Student Academic Misconduct Procedure	See Student Academic Misconduct Procedure
1.11 Behaviour which compromises the University's ability to fulfil its obligations in relation to Freedom of Speech	– Disruptive heckling or group harassment – Harassment with the effect of limiting Freedom of Speech – See also section 3 Hate-related misconduct	Level 2 or 3 – Written warning – Final warning – Suspension (L3 only) – Expulsion (L3 only)
1.12 Failure to comply with a previously imposed interim precautionary measure, disciplinary sanction, or failure to cooperate with a University disciplinary investigation	– Breach of a no contact instruction – Breach of a temporary suspension or bar from campus – Refusing to respond to enquiries	Level 2 or 3 – Written warning – Final warning – Suspension (L3 only) – Expulsion (L3 only)
1.13 Behaviour which brings or may bring the University into disrepute	– Serious misconduct in a University setting – Misconduct in a public or community setting e.g. behavioural misconduct at student society/club social activities, criminal convictions, breach of confidentiality in student procedures	Level 2 or 3 – Written warning – Final warning – Suspension (L3 only) – Expulsion (L3 only)
1.14 Conduct which constitutes or may constitute a criminal offence or unlawful behaviour	– Includes all misconduct types as listed in this Code where the behaviour may also constitute a criminal offence or unlawful behaviour – Any serious criminal offence or unlawful behaviour not otherwise covered by this Code	Level 2 or 3 – Written warning – Final warning – Suspension (L3 only) – Expulsion (L3 only)
2. Sexual misconduct (unwanted conduct or attempted conduct of a sexual nature)		
2.1 Inappropriate touching or physical interaction, in what may reasonably be perceived to be an intentional and sexual manner, without consent	– Touching a person's clothes, hair or body – Standing too close to a person – Rubbing or brushing up against them – Unwanted kissing – Exposing of genitals without consent	Level 2 – Minor misconduct – Written warning – Final warning

Misconduct type	Examples (not exhaustive)	Likely level of Procedure ¹ and sanctions
2.2 Attempting to engage or engaging in sexual intercourse or a sexual act including penetration without consent	– Sexual intercourse is defined as penetration, anal or vaginal – Sexual acts are defined as including, but not limited to, cunnilingus, fellatio and masturbation	Level 2 or 3 – Written warning – Final warning – Suspension (L3 only) – Expulsion (L3 only)
2.3 Sexual verbal abuse, meaning unwanted remarks or noises that may reasonably be perceived to be of a sexual nature	– Asking personal questions about sexual matters – Making sexual comments about a person's body – Telling sexual jokes or stories – Making sexual comments or innuendo – Catcalling, wolf-whistling, sexual grunting or moaning	Level 2 – Written warning – Final warning
2.4 Sexual harassment and stalking	– Repeated unwanted and unsolicited contact of a sexual or romantic nature whether in person or digitally, including via social media	Level 2 or 3 – Written warning – Final warning – Suspension (L3 only) – Expulsion (L3 only)
2.5 Creating or distributing sexually explicit materials without the consent of those portrayed; or sending such materials without consent of the receiver	– Cyberflashing (e.g. sending unsolicited 'dick pics') – Filming of sexual acts or intimate body parts without consent of all parties (e.g. 'upskirting', filming of consensual sex without permission) – Distributing explicit images or video without consent of all parties (e.g. 'revenge porn')	Level 2 or 3 – Written warning – Final warning – Suspension (L3 only) – Expulsion (L3 only)
2.6 Public exposure of genitals	– 'Flashing' – Public nudity (including genitals)	Level 2 – Written warning – Final warning
3. Discrimination, harassment or hate-related misconduct (including in relation to protected characteristics under the Equality act and other characteristics ²)		

² Under the Equality Act: Age, Disability, Gender reassignment, Race, Religion or belief (or lack thereof), Sex, Sexual orientation, Pregnancy and maternity, Marriage or civil partnership. In addition harassment can also relate to: ethnic origin, nationality or skin colour; religious or political convictions; willingness to challenge harassment leading to victimisation; status as an ex-offender.

Misconduct type	Examples (not exhaustive)	Likely level of Procedure ¹ and sanctions
3.1 Verbal or non-verbal bullying or harassment i.e. behaviour that is offensive, intimidating or humiliating	– Use of inappropriate language that may be perceived as discriminatory, including 'microaggressions' – Making abusive comments relating to an individual's actual or perceived protected characteristic – Physically threatening or intimidating behaviour including shouting, gesturing or using slurs	Level 2 or 3 – Written warning – Final warning – Suspension (L3 only) – Expulsion (L3 only)
3.2 Creating, sharing or distributing discriminatory or hate-related materials, comments or literature	– Posting discriminatory or hate-related materials on social media – Displaying discriminatory or hate-related materials in University or public spaces	Level 2 or 3 – Written warning – Final warning – Suspension (L3 only) – Expulsion (L3 only)
3.3 Discrimination of any kind, including direct discrimination, discrimination based on perceptions or association and indirect discrimination	– Discriminatory behaviour within a position of responsibility (formal or informal e.g. student reps, society committee members)	Level 2 or 3 – Written warning – Final warning – Suspension (L3 only) – Expulsion (L3 only)
3.4 Misconduct of all other types that has a hate related element	– Graffiti or arson (1.5 above) – Hate-related physical assault (1.8 above) – Hate-related sexual assault (2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 above)	Level 2 or 3 – Written warning – Final warning – Suspension (L3 only) – Expulsion (L3 only)
4. Drug related misconduct		
4.1 Possession of drug paraphernalia in University accommodation	– Possession of drugs paraphernalia e.g. shisha pipe, grinder, scales, snap bags etc. in University accommodation	Level 1 – Referral to ResLife (uni. accom. only) - with possible referral to Student Health and Wellbeing

Misconduct type	Examples (not exhaustive)	Likely level of Procedure ¹ and sanctions
4.2 Possession of illegal substances	– Possession of Class A, B or C drugs – Possession of other illegal or dangerous substances	Level 1, 2 or 3 depending on amount and Class – Written warning – Final warning – Suspension (L3 only) – Expulsion (L3 only)
4.3 Manufacturing, dealing, supplying, or intending to supply illegal/restricted substances whether on University premises or within the wider community	– Manufacture of any Class of drug – Supplying/dealing/distribution of any class of drug on University property or to the wider community (includes intent to supply) – Supplying age restricted substances to under age persons e.g. legal highs, solvents, knives, cigarettes, vapes, alcohol etc.	Level 2 or 3 – Written warning – Final warning – Suspension (L3 only) – Expulsion (L3 only)
5. Dangerous behaviours		
5.1 Involvement in behaviours or any event or activity which involves force, coercion or manipulation of students to their physical or mental detriment	– Forced physical challenges – Psychologically or physically risky behaviours	Level 2 – Written warning – Final warning
5.2 Involvement in more serious behaviours or any event or activity which involves force, coercion, or manipulation of students to their physical or mental detriment	– Forced alcohol consumption (including forced speed-drinking) – Forced substance consumption – Forced humiliation – Dangerous or illegal activity – Taking improper advantage of any student(s) as a result of an imbalance of power/position – Inappropriate, intimidating or threatening communications	Level 2 or 3 – Written warning – Final warning – Suspension (L3 only) – Expulsion (L3 only)
5.3 Organisation or being in a position of responsibility at events that involve behaviours or any event or activity which involves force, coercion or manipulation of students to their physical or mental detriment	– As given in 5.1 and 5.2 where the individual is in a position of responsibility e.g. organiser of the activity, committee member of club/society – Exclusion of students who will not participate in the behaviours listed in 5.1 and 5.2	Level 2 or 3 – Written warning – Final warning – Suspension (L3 only) – Expulsion (L3 only)

