

# Maintaining good campus relations in higher education



- Freedom of expression
- The use of School buildings
- Prevention of radicalisation and terrorism

This policy is of relevance to students / staff / general public

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## Freedom of expression

The School is committed to the principles of academic freedom of enquiry and an environment where free and open-minded discussion can take place. It promotes a Higher Education community built on mutual trust and respect which is a core feature of its professional training.

The School considers that vigorous debate is proper and acceptable in a higher education academic context. Further, it is a long standing tradition that the arts both reflect and challenge the political, religious and social mores of the day. Therefore, staff and students should have freedom, within the law, to voice a wide range of views and opinions on social, economic, political, cultural and religious issues, and to put forward controversial or unpopular opinions. These opinions may be expressed in the form of an artistic output, eg play, concert, opera, installation or other art form.

However, such freedoms do not give immunity from the law nor from personal liability and the School is obliged under law to ensure that any action, publication or speech on its premises is lawful, and to protect its staff, students and visitors from victimisation, harassment or unlawful discrimination.

The School will provide facilities for lawful views to be expressed, and for lawful activities, including artistic outputs, to take place on its premises, including Students' Union sponsored activities. The School states, however, that providing such opportunities does not in any way imply or confirm that the School endorses such views or activities.

The School will take all reasonable steps to ensure public order and to prevent crime on its premises; to ensure public safety, and to protect the rights and freedoms of staff, students, visitors and guests.

The School will consult with external agencies as it deems necessary and will co-operate with such agencies as required by law. The School has a duty to mediate in and ultimately control situations

where the lawful actions of one part of the School community have an adverse impact on the maintenance of good relations. The School has a responsibility to adjudicate in such circumstances, and to balance the opportunity to protest and argue with the expectation of being able to work and study without perceived intimidation or fear.

### **Use of School buildings<sup>1</sup>**

Whilst appropriate self-moderation and self-regulation on the part of staff and students is implicitly assumed, the School is ultimately responsible for observing its obligations to the whole community, and must act accordingly. To this end:

- (i) Public facing events on School premises or taking place online on a School platform, organised by the School, will be overseen by the Events Committee to ensure that risks are assessed, and mitigating action taken, where controversial activity is taking place;<sup>2</sup>
- (ii) Controversial research activity is overseen by the Research Ethics Committee;
- (iii) External speakers will be risk assessed by the relevant Head of Department/Programme Leader when curating future events to ensure that mitigating action is taken where controversial activity is taking place. See Appendix A for guidance on risk assessing external speakers;
- (iv) Activities in the School, arranged by Barbican Commercial (or similar third party hire), will be risk assessed and the School notified of any event that is likely to cause discord or concern within the larger community, may attract unwarranted external publicity, or may ultimately disrupt School business;
- (v) Activities on School premises organised by the Students' Union will be risk assessed and the School notified of any event that is likely to cause discord or concern within the larger community, may attract unwarranted external publicity, or may ultimately disrupt School business.

In the event that the School determines that activities in (iv) and (v) present too high a risk to the good order of the campus it reserves the right to impose restrictions/obligations on the organisers to mitigate the potential effects of their activities or, in extremis, to cancel the activity.

Where there is a noted risk, officers to be notified in the first instance are as follows:

- for all events - Head of Facilities
- for all third-party hire - the Principal
- for all academic activities - Vice-Principal (Innovation) plus relevant departmental Vice-Principal (Music or Drama) or Director of Learning & Engagement
- for any activity that may attract unwarranted external publicity – the Head External Affairs
- for SU events - Academic Registrar & Director of Student Experience

### **Prevention of radicalisation and terrorism in higher education students**

The nature of the School's higher education training is, at its very core, anathema to religious, political and other fundamentalism and the risk to the School's higher education student body has consequently at a low risk of radicalisation, though this is under constant review.<sup>3</sup> The School takes pride in the pastoral care of its students and believes that its existing pastoral care arrangements and

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<sup>1</sup> This is not a room booking or event management policy; standard arrangements concerning room bookings, stewarding, licencing where applicable, and security must also be followed. If in doubt please contact the Facilities Department.

<sup>2</sup> The School publishes warnings about content which may offend.

<sup>3</sup> The risks for other parts of the School community, eg under-18 Saturday provision or short courses, are different and are covered by other assessments.

its high-contact teaching time are sufficiently robust to alert the School to a student in danger of radicalisation.

Increasing religious devoutness or a commitment to unconventional beliefs (political or religious) is not the same as radicalisation towards violent extremism. However, where a student's behaviour has changed that appears to be affecting their studies, eg:

- changes in behaviour in the classroom including reluctance to take part in specific activities,
- the expression of extreme views creating disorder in the classroom,
- unexplained absences,

there are mechanisms for the School to intervene via the *Course participation policy* and student at risk processes, with interventions including counselling and tutor support.

## **Appendix: related policies**

Student Course Participation Policy

Health & Safety Policy

I.T. and Telecommunications: misuse & security policy

Risk Management Policy

Room Booking Policy

Student policy on bullying & harassment

Student Religious Observance policy

Safeguarding Policy

Appendix A: External Speakers and Events: Prevent Guidance (Including online events)