

# Student Conduct Policy

- 1 This Policy sets out the standards of conduct that we require of our students and the University's approach to dealing with allegations of student misconduct.
- 2 UWE is a very large institution with tens of thousands of individuals studying and working closely together as part of the University community. In order for such a community to function effectively, and to seek to ensure that all its members (students and staff alike) enjoy an environment conducive to teaching, learning, research and a positive experience, students are required to meet certain standards of conduct.

### 3 **Student Standards of Conduct**

All UWE students are required at all times (not just during term time and including whilst on University activities such as placements and field trips) and both while on and off University premises, including University-managed accommodation, to behave as responsible members of the University community, and to represent and uphold the good name of the University. They are expected to familiarise themselves with and act according to the following standards:

- safely, and with regard for the safety of others;
- with civility, consideration and respect for others in the University and the local community; and
- in accordance with all University policies, rules and regulations, and all applicable laws.

UWE has a zero tolerance approach to violence and harassment in all its forms.

Misconduct includes but is not limited to:

- bullying, harassment or discrimination against another person, including the use of discriminatory language;
- physical, written, or verbal abuse or intimidation against another person, including in communications via social media;
- sexual harassment, violence or abuse;
- any act which brings or threatens to bring the University's reputation into disrepute;
- disruption of or improper interference with the academic, administrative, sporting, social or other activities of the University;
- damage to or theft of property from the University or members of staff or students;
- vexatious, reckless or malicious allegations against other students, staff or members of the public;
- persistent failure to respond to or comply with formal disciplinary sanctions imposed under the Disciplinary Procedures or other University policies and procedures;
- criminal or other activities that have a bearing on the student's participation in the University or provide a risk to other students, staff or other users of the University's services;
- misuse of alcohol, drugs and legal highs

- unacceptable behaviour or actions as set out in other policies, procedures and regulations of the University including but not limited to those listed in paragraph 5 below.

4 The University will seek to promote and facilitate good student conduct through education, support and positive encouragement, however where these approaches or other informal action are not sufficient we will institute formal disciplinary action. Once formal disciplinary action has been instituted, a case will be concluded even if the alleged perpetrator is no longer a student of the University.

5 Alleged failures by students to comply with the standards of conduct may result in the University taking action under the Student Disciplinary Procedures and/or such other University procedures as it considers reasonable and appropriate. These include:

- Professional Suitability and Professional Conduct Policy
- Fitness to Study
- Student Drug and Alcohol Policy
- University Academic Regulations and Procedures
- Disclosure and Barring Checks Policy and Procedure
- Freedom of Speech Policy
- Health and Safety Policies
- Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Hate incident reporting
- IT Acceptable Use Policy
- Rules for students in University accommodation
- Library Rules
- Social media guidance

The Student Policy Manager will determine the appropriate procedure to be followed in any matter.

6 The University has a three-stage process for dealing with alleged student misconduct as follows.

7 **Level One Disciplinary Action (Initial Formal Interventions)**

Level 1 normally involves intervention by faculty or service staff at an early stage when an incident occurs or issue arises which is relatively contained and minor, with the aim of addressing it as quickly and as close to the source as possible. Possible sanctions include:

- verbal or written warnings
- requirement for a formal apology
- reparation to the University or individual in respect of loss caused by the misconduct
- seizure and retention for a period of time, or confiscation without compensation, of items, for the purpose of maintaining the safety and wellbeing of others
- removal of access to a service provided by the University or to the use of specified facilities for a given period of no longer than one week.

8 **Level Two Disciplinary Action (Formal Review)**

Level 2 is for cases where action at Level 1 has failed to resolve matters, persistent offenders or behaviour which is too serious to be dealt with at Level 1. Level 2 will be managed by Student and Partnership Services and sanctions that can be imposed by the Director of Student Engagement and Success in addition to those available at Level 1, would include financial penalties of up to £200.

**9 Level Three Disciplinary Action (Formal Disciplinary Hearing)**

A matter that cannot be concluded appropriately at Level 2 or a matter concerning an allegation of gross misconduct will be dealt with at a disciplinary hearing by a disciplinary panel chaired by a senior member of the University normally nominated by the Director of Student Engagement and Success. Sanctions that can be imposed at this stage, in addition to those available at Level 1 and 2, include suspension, exclusion and expulsion from the University.

**10 Temporary suspension or exclusion**

Temporary suspension of a student from their studies and/or related activities such as placements, or temporary exclusion from University premises, and/or University-managed accommodation, as a means of mitigating risk, is possible at any stage of the Disciplinary Procedures. This is not a disciplinary penalty, but is available as a neutral act to mitigate risk (See Student Disciplinary Procedures, section 5).

**11** The University is committed to conducting all levels and stages of its disciplinary procedures fairly, consistently, transparently and proportionately. Support and guidance is available to students who are involved at any stage of the procedures, from Student and Partnership Services and the Students' Union Advice Centre.

**12** Other related and relevant policies include:

- UWE Charter
- Complaints Procedures
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Student Alcohol and Drugs Policy

## **APPENDIX 1 - Student Policy Team Data Privacy Summary**

The Student Policy Team needs to collect, share, store and use data on students and others so we can identify, investigate and manage cases that fall under our policies. Due to the nature of our policies, the data is held and used under the agreement signed by students at registration. A lot of the data we'll store will be personal sensitive data. We'll always treat personal data with care.

### **Sharing Inside UWE**

We need to talk to and share data with other individuals and teams within UWE in order to effectively manage cases, but will do so sensitively. In general, we'll share information only on a need to know basis. We'll provide staff in UWE services and departments with the factual information they need to do their jobs, and we'll ask for information from other UWE services for a specific purpose.

### **Sharing Outside UWE**

We won't normally give information to third parties who ask for it, except with express permission, or when we are legally allowed to do so. (Third parties include GPs, parents, placement providers, the Police, Students' Union advisers, friends, and landlords). If a student's conduct may be in breach of the criminal law, the University may refer this to the Police.

If we judge there's an immediate threat to a person's vital interests, we'll provide relevant information to a student's emergency contact, the police, or another external agency.

We might decide it's appropriate to discuss professional suitability matters and their outcomes with third parties, or refer matters to them. These third parties may include professional, statutory or regulatory bodies or placement providers, and agencies such as social services, the Disclosure and Barring Service, or the NHS Counter Fraud Service.

If it's not clear whether we should share information, we'll be normally be guided by what will benefit the student, or by our legal or statutory obligations.

*Please contact us for a copy of our full data privacy protocol on 0117 3285667 or [conduct@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:conduct@uwe.ac.uk)*