

# University of Sussex Student Code of Conduct

We want you to have the best experience possible whilst studying at the University of Sussex. In order to ensure this, the University community needs to work together on the joint commitments that we can expect of each other during our time together.

The University of Sussex has challenged convention since our founding in 1961, from the campus' modernist architecture on the edge of a national park, to our questioning and thought-leading academics and creative professional services staff, to the inspiring students who choose to learn and live here. For over 60 years the University has innovated and taken a lead to stimulate, excite and challenge. And today, in every part of society and across the world, you will find someone from Sussex making an original and valuable contribution. Supporting community aims also means being clear about conduct, values, support mechanisms, and recourse to complaints and disciplinary procedures. The University of Sussex Student Code of Conduct has been developed in collaboration with our community as a way of clearly establishing these expectations.

We expect all members of our community to conduct themselves in accordance with our core values, regardless of their physical or virtual environment.

The Code aims to:

- Clearly inform students of the commitments we make to each other and the expectations we have of each other during our time together;
- Embed and promote our core University values of Collaboration, Courage, Inclusion, Integrity, Kindness and Openness;
- Emphasise the importance of the collaborative relationship between the University and our students.

## Learning and teaching together

During your time as a student at Sussex, you can expect the University to:

- Offer you an enriching learning experience that is designed to broaden your horizons and provide you with skills and experience to open up a wide range of future life and career possibilities;
- Provide you with access to the resources and support needed for your studies and activities during your time with us;
- Offer you a stimulating learning environment, in which you can develop as an independent thinker and learner;
- Communicate and engage regularly with you;
- Support you to explore the many opportunities open to Sussex students and graduates, including placements, study abroad, further study or progression into a chosen career path.

The University expects you to:

- Maintain the highest standards of academic integrity, engaging actively with your studies to the best of your ability, including self-study and participation in your teaching sessions;
- Attend lectures, seminars, and teaching sessions in line with our [Attendance and Engagement Policy](#) to facilitate your learning and research, ensuring you are punctual for appointments and respectful of other people's time;

- Follow all [University rules and regulations](#) around [academic activity](#), and use of the University estate and resources, such as the Library, IT Services, buildings, and other services;
- Seek academic assistance when you require it and let us know of any difficulties you are experiencing with your studies.

## Respecting others and our environment

You can expect the University to:

- Foster an inclusive culture of dignity and respect on an everyday basis;
- Uphold academic freedom and freedom of speech within the law in accordance with our [Freedom of Speech – Code of Practice](#);
- Put measures in place that create the conditions for our University campus to be a safe and welcoming environment for you to work, learn and live;
- Proactively take steps to support our ambition to become one of the most sustainable universities in the world.

The University expects you to:

- Treat members of the University community with dignity and respect, as set out in the [University's Dignity, Respect and Inclusion Policy](#);
- Uphold and respect the principles of academic freedom and freedom of speech as set out in the University's [Freedom of Speech – Code of Practice](#);
- Respect the University's estate and property, and contribute to the security of our campus by providing your student ID card when requested;
- Support the University's ambitions in relation to environmental sustainability, respecting the University estate and environment by recycling and disposing of litter and rubbish accordingly;
- Respect others in the University environment, including those who may have hidden disabilities, by being considerate of disruption to those around you.

## Social conduct, awareness and behaviour

You can expect the University to:

- Foster an environment where staff members treat you with kindness, dignity and respect;
- Uphold your privacy rights within the law and in line with our [Data Protection Policy](#);
- Uphold academic freedom and freedom of speech within the law in accordance with our [Freedom of Speech – Code of Practice](#).

The University expects you to act responsibly and to:

- Be aware of the University's [student support services](#), reaching out to them for help, advice, and guidance and, if appropriate, encourage others to do so;
- Demonstrate ethical behaviour when participating in, attending, or viewing any University event;
- Refrain from anti-social behaviour;
- Neither share nor distribute materials which are unlawful because they e.g intend to cause fear or provoke violence;
- Ensure that any campus, online or social media activity does not discriminate against, bully or harass others and observes any guidance introduced by the University or Student's Union.

## Taking Action

If you feel that the University has failed to meet these expectations please [let us know](#), we will try and resolve issues in the first instance, and where they cannot be resolved informally we have a [complaints process](#) you can use.

This Code should be read in conjunction with [student disciplinary and misconduct process](#), which may, if appropriate, be initiated in relation to complaints about student conduct. The University will seek to resolve these issues informally when appropriate.

Signed on behalf of the University of Sussex:

Professor Kate O’Riordan,  
Pro Vice Chancellor (Education and Students)

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