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**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH WALES**

**PRIFYSGOL DE CYMRU**

**Student Code of Conduct**

1. **Introduction**
   1. The Student Code of Conduct (the Code) should be read in conjunction with the Student Conduct Regulations and the Fitness to Practise Regulations.
   2. The University of South Wales is committed to providing a quality student experience, to supporting equality, diversity and inclusion, and to building a strong sense of community for our students.

1.3 The Code is based upon respect for the University community, the wider local community, for individuals, property and the environment. It is expected that all students are aware of it and abide by its principles.

1.4 The Code provides general guidance on student behaviour and provides links to the appropriate policies and regulations. It does not supersede any of the regulations, policies or other contractual documents issued by the University.

1. **Scope and Purpose**
   1. This Code applies to all students of the University from enrolment (or arrival in halls of residence, if earlier) up to completion of their course at the University (or departure from halls of residence, if later).
   2. This code applies to student conduct both off and on the University’s campus/premises. It also applies to those living in or visiting University student accommodation.
   3. For those registered on professional programmes of study such as law, nursing and midwifery, education, social work etc, which impose their own professional standards or fitness to practise regulations, this Code is complementary to, and does not replace, those standards, regulations or professional conduct requirements.
   4. In applying this Code, the University seeks to comply with all relevant legislation promoting privacy, equality of opportunity and antidiscrimination.
   5. Incidents of alleged student misconduct may lead to the invoking of formal University Student Conduct Regulations.
2. **Student Standards of Conduct** 
   1. The University’s Student Charter sets out what our students can expect from the University and what the University expects in return.
   2. All students are expected to be considerate to the needs of fellow students, visitors and staff and to positively integrate with local residents.
   3. Students are expected to be mindful of others, and recognise how their behaviours can impact on other students and the wider community.
   4. Students are expected to use all forms of spoken, written and digital communication (including social media and networking sites) responsibly, respecting the right to privacy of others at all times.
   5. Students following professional courses of study may have additional consequences in relation to misconduct.
   6. The University has excellent relationships with the police constabulary. Where an informal approach has not been effective or where offences are more serious or repeated, a criminal investigation may be deemed necessary; where this is the case, the University will fully support such action or instigate it if appropriate.
3. **Expectations of Behaviour**
   1. Our students are expected to act appropriately and conduct themselves as respectful citizens of both the University and the local community. It is expected therefore that our students are seen as positive ambassadors for the University whilst they are enrolled on their course.
   2. The actions outlined in section 5 below, whether occurring on University premises or elsewhere, are examples of conduct which are not acceptable to the University and the Students' Union, and may lead to the invoking of formal University investigatory procedures.
4. **Examples of Misconduct**

5.1 An act will be regarded as misconduct, and therefore the subject of disciplinary action:

* if it constitutes or is likely to constitute improper interference with the proper functioning and activities of the University, or of those who work or study in the University, or
* if it damages or is likely to damage the reputation of the University.

5.2 Examples of unacceptable behaviour, their seriousness, indicative penalties and how they will be dealt with are included within the University’s Student Conduct Regulations.

5.3 The following constitutes a ***non-exhaustive*** list of examples of possible misconduct, some of which may also constitute a criminal act:

***5.3.1 Physical misconduct***

* Punching;
* Kicking;
* Slapping;
* Biting;
* Pulling hair;
* Pushing/shoving.

***5.3.2 Sexual misconduct***

* Engaging, or attempting to engage in sexual intercourse or a sexual act without consent;
* Sharing private sexual materials of another person without consent;
* Kissing and/or touching inappropriately without consent;
* Inappropriately showing sexual organs to another person;
* Repeatedly following another person without good reason;
* Making unwanted remarks of a sexual nature.
  + 1. ***Abusive behaviour***
* Threats to hurt another person;
* Engaging in any activity or behaviour which contravenes the University's Strategic Equality Plan or Dignity at Study/Dignity at Work policies, including acts of racial hatred, non-violent extremism, violent extremism and/or terrorism and abusive comments relating to an individual’s sex, sexual orientation, religion or belief, race, pregnancy, marriage/civil partnership, gender reassignment, disability or age[[1]](#footnote-1);
* Acting in an intimidating and hostile manner;
* Malicious or vexatious allegations against other members of the University community;
* Use of inappropriate language;
* Repeatedly contacting another person (by phone, email, text or on social networking sites) against the wishes of the other person (see also the University’s Social Media Policy: <http://its.southwales.ac.uk/documents/download/6/>).

***5.3.4 Damage to property***

* Causing damage to University property or property of other students, staff or visitors.

***5.3.5 Unauthorised taking or use of property***

* Unauthorised entry onto or unauthorised use of University premises;
* Misuse of University property (for example computers and laboratory equipment) or failure to comply with IT regulations;
* Purchase or order goods on behalf of the University without due authorisation.

***5.3.6 Causing a health or safety concern***

* Act/omission that did cause or could have caused serious harm on University premises or during University activities (for example, disabling fire extinguishers or possessing/supplying controlled drugs) and including interfering with anything provided in the interests of Health and Safety at Work as detailed in the [Health and Safety Policy document](https://thehub.southwales.ac.uk/Interact/Pages/Section/SubFullOne.aspx?subsection=2435);
* Act/omission that did cause or could have caused a health and safety concern on University premises or during University activities (for example, smoking cigarettes in non-designated areas);
* Carrying potential weapons, for example knives, whilst on a university campus.

***5.3.7 Operational obstruction***

* Acts/omissions/statements intended to deceive the University[[2]](#footnote-2);
* Disruption of the activities of the University (including academic, administrative, sporting and social) on University premises or elsewhere;
* Disruption of the functions, duties or activities of any student or employee of the University or any authorised visitor to the University;
* Bribe or attempt to bribe a member of university staff;
* Improper interference with the activities of the University (including academic, administrative, sporting and social) on University premises or elsewhere;
* Improper interference with the functions, duties or activities of any student or employee of the University or any authorised visitor to the University;
* Fail to comply with the reasonable request of an authorised individual;
* Fail to give their name and address to an officer or employee of the University when reasonably requested to do so by such officer or employee in the course of their duties.

***5.3.8 Reputational damage***

* Behaviour which has caused or could have caused damage to the reputation of the University.

***5.3.9 Issues specific to the country of study***

* This includes, but is not limited to, failure to comply with the laws of the country of study and failure to comply with policies or regulations, including rules as may be imposed by management in relation to the use of shared or campus facilities.

1. **Penalties**

* 1. Where a breach of the University’s regulations has been upheld, the penalties available to the University include:
* Written apology;
* Formal warning;
* Restrictions/conditions (for example a restriction on contact;
* Suspension/exclusion from certain areas of the campus;
* Expulsion from the University.
  1. The Guidelines for the Application of Penalties is indicative only. There will be instances when certain behaviours which would usually be considered minor are in fact very serious and therefore require a more serious penalty. Similarly, there will be instances when certain behaviours which would usually be considered serious are in fact minor and will require a less serious penalty.
  2. Students must comply with any penalty imposed by the University in respect of any previous misconduct under these regulations. If they do not a more serious penalty may be issued.
  3. Multiple or repeated incidents of misconduct may be more serious than a single act of misconduct and previous findings may be more serious than a single act of misconduct and previous findings may be taken into account when determining penalties.

1. **Investigating Alleged Student Misconduct**

7.1 Cases of alleged student misconduct vary in their nature and complexity but where deemed appropriate they will be dealt with under one or more of the following:

* Student Conduct Regulations:

<https://registry.southwales.ac.uk/student-regulations/student-conduct/>

* Fitness to Practise Regulations:

<https://registry.southwales.ac.uk/student-regulations/fitness-practice/>

* Halls of Residence Disciplinary Procedures:

<http://studenthalls.southwales.ac.uk/documents/download/130/>

* Fitness to Study Regulations:

<https://registry.southwales.ac.uk/student-regulations/fitness-study/>

* The University’s Prevent Protocol:

<https://thehub.southwales.ac.uk/Interact/Pages/Content/Document.aspx?id=4755>

7.2 Students under investigation for alleged misconduct are strongly advised to seek advice and assistance from the Students’ Union.

1. It is to be noted that incidents which appear to the victim or anyone else to be based on prejudice towards them because

   of their race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or transgender identity are known as hate incidents.  When a hate

   incident is also a criminal offence it is known as a hate crime. Hate crime is not a specific criminal offence in itself, rather it

   denotes a criminal offence  such as assault, harassment, sexual offences, criminal damage and hate mail, which is

   perceived to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or transgender

   identity. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Where an act is committed to gain admission to the University, eg falsification of qualifications, where no

   credit has been awarded, this will be considered through the admissions procedures. Where credit has been

   gained, the matter will be dealt with through the Student Conduct Regulations. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)