THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT

Student Behaviour

1. Scope

This document 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.

2. General Principles

2.1 The Student Charter sets out general commitments of the University, Kent Union and students. Commitments include: requirements to treat fellow students, University staff, visitors, neighbours and all people equally and respectfully, regardless of gender, religion or belief, community background, nationality, race/ethnic origin, disability, marital or other status, responsibilities, sexual orientation or age; to behave in a responsible manner on and off campus, and avoid actions that have an adverse impact on those who work or study at the University, the local community, the University’s reputation or its environment.

2.2 Poor behaviour will not be tolerated by the University (please refer to the definitions on bullying, harassment and victimisation in section 3 of the Dignity at Study Policy), and the University’s Disciplinary Procedure may be invoked under the Regulations on non-academic discipline and related regulations such as Information Services Regulations and Traffic Regulations; reference should also be made to other contractual documents such as student accommodation licences, where appropriate. Examples of poor behaviour that are regarded as breaches of discipline include the following:

2.2.1 Disruption of, or interference with, academic, administrative, sporting, social or other activities of the University.

2.2.2 Sexual, homophobic, racial, physical or other harassment, bullying, victimisation or behaviour which causes fear or distress to others, or threatening, abusive, disorderly or unreasonable behaviour.

2.2.3 Behaviour damaging to race relations and equality and diversity policies.

2.2.4 Conduct which prevents, obstructs or disrupts the holding or orderly conduct of any meeting or other lawful assembly in the University or which would cause the University to be in breach of its statutory duty to provide education and interfering with the due discharge of the University’s duties.

2.2.5 Fraud, deceit, deception, dishonesty or misappropriation of University funds or assets, misuse or falsification of any records or documents held by the University, its staff, students or visitors.

2.2.6 Any improper access to or disclosure of computerised or other data held by the University or accessible through University equipment or networks.

2.2.7 Non-declaration of information which the University judges relevant to the continuation of your registration as a student e.g. non-declaration of a criminal conviction or caution since your last CRB check.

2.2.8 Conduct which constitutes a criminal offence.

2.2.9 Conduct likely to damage or threaten the reputation of the University.

2.2.10 Damage to, or wrongful treatment of, the property (including University controlled or nominated student residential accommodation) or equipment of the University or any of its staff, students or visitors, or any action likely to cause injury to any person or impairing the health and safety of premises or occupants, or contravening the University’s policy on Health and Safety.
Appendix 1

2.2.11 Action or omission which could cause loss, damage or injury or put others at risk.
2.2.12 The possession, use and/or supply of any controlled drugs as covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.
2.2.13 A breach of any of the University’s rules, regulations, codes of conduct or procedures, or any failure to comply with any ruling made as a result of disciplinary proceedings, whether formal or informal.

3. Behaviour in Class

Students are expected:
- to arrive on time for meetings with staff and teaching events such as lectures, seminars, supervisions and laboratories
- to refrain from using mobile phones and other electronic devices during teaching events, unless specifically authorised by the responsible lecturer, and in areas where use is forbidden e.g. library
- to treat staff and other students with dignity and respect
- not to behave in a way that distracts other students
- refrain from indecent or abusive language or behaviour.

This list is not exhaustive.

A student, whose behaviour is considered inappropriate, may be asked to leave a teaching event and, if so, will be reported to the student’s Head of School. Serious or repeated instances may lead to disciplinary action under the Regulations on Non academic discipline.

4. Drugs and Alcohol

4.1 The University has Policies concerning the misuse of alcohol and drugs. The Policies cover the University’s intent to provide a healthy and safe environment for students and others; to support students with drug or alcohol problems and to deal with drug or alcohol-related problems or incidents which affect the conduct, safety or academic performance of an individual student, other students, staff, campus life and/or the wider community.

4.2 The University will take action to prevent injury, damage or other serious risk where, as a result of alcohol or drug misuse, a student acts in such a way as to endanger him/her and/or others. A student believed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs may, for example, be asked to leave a lecture, seminar, practical workshop, laboratory session or other teaching event. In appropriate circumstances the procedures on Fitness to Study may be invoked to help a student to receive professional help and advice in relation to his/her academic work. An on-going alcohol or substance misuse problem will not constitute an acceptable excuse for bad behaviour or performance or exempt the student(s) concerned from the normal consequences of inappropriate performance or misconduct.
5. **Misuse of IT Facilities**

5.1 Students should ensure they comply with the University's Regulations Governing the use of University Computing Facilities at [http://www.kent.ac.uk/regulations/general.html](http://www.kent.ac.uk/regulations/general.html)

5.2 Cases of online bullying or harassment will be dealt with in the same way as if it had taken place in a face-to-face setting. Students should:

- avoid using language which would be deemed to be offensive to others in a face-to-face setting;
- avoid forming or joining an online group that isolates or victimises fellow students or colleagues;
- never access or share illegal content.

6. **Conduct off Campus**

6.1 The University may pursue disciplinary action against a student for poor behaviour off campus in circumstances where either:

6.1.1 the behaviour is such that action is required to provide a safeguard for other members of the University community;

6.1.2 the behaviour adversely affects members of the community or attracts adverse publicity.

7. **Conduct which may constitute a criminal offence**

7.1 If a criminal offence such as theft, harassing phone calls, texts or emails, physical assault, indecent exposure or rape takes place, nothing in any University policy is intended to prevent or dissuade an individual from contacting the police.

7.2 If the police are involved in a case, the University will normally suspend its internal disciplinary procedures until criminal proceedings are complete or a decision not to prosecute has been taken.

7.3 Any issue relating to a criminal offence will be dealt with in accordance with Section 5 and appendix V of the University's Regulations on non-academic discipline.

8. **Vexatious or Malicious Complaints**

8.1 If, at any time, there is evidence that complaints have been made vexatiously or maliciously, disciplinary action will be taken.

9. **Dignity at Study Policy**

9.1 This document should be read in conjunction with the Dignity at Study Policy, which can be found at: [http://www.kent.ac.uk/regulations/general.html](http://www.kent.ac.uk/regulations/general.html)