Student Code of Conduct Covid-19 addendum

Out of respect for the staff and students of our University and the people of east London, this addendum is inserted into our Student Code of Conduct to make explicit our commitment to Covid-security.

We have established clear guidelines to keep our campuses Covid- secure. We all have responsibility to keep ourselves and others safe. Our Covid- secure planning has been very thorough but does rely on all members of the community following the guidance.

For those students who choose not to follow the Covid- secure guidance, we will seek to educate and inform in the first instance. However, please be aware that not following the Covid-secure guidance could be a breach of the University's Code of Conduct which could result in disciplinary action being taken against you.

It is expected that students will respect and follow what is being asked of them and the University will not take disciplinary action for minor oversights-those instances will be dealt with by a simple reminder of expectations. However, a breach of the Code of Conduct might be evident in the following circumstances (not an exhaustive list):

• through aggressive or abusive behaviour when reminded about what is expected
• refusal to follow Government legal requirements
• intentionally gathering in large groups against guidance
• deliberately arranging large social gatherings against guidance
• undermining the University social distancing and safety guidelines on social media.

Acts such these could be classified as acts of misconduct under section 7.2 of the Student disciplinary regulations and procedures (incorporating the student code of conduct). More formal action may be required where the behaviour outlined above constitutes:

• incidents between students or between students and staff, for instance which show a lack of respect or courtesy, or where informal attempts to deal with bad behaviour have not been successful
• misuse of social media
• misuse of University property, or the property of staff, students or visitors
• misuse or unauthorised use of University premises
• damage to University property, or the property of staff, students or visitors, caused intentionally or recklessly
• action likely to cause injury or impair safety on University premises
• breach of Universities health and safety regulations

If an allegation of misconduct is upheld under the University's Student disciplinary regulations and procedures then this could resort in one or more of the following penalties being imposed:

• Verbal or written warnings
• A formal apology to an individual
• Reparation to the University or (an) individual(s) in respect of loss caused by the misconduct
• Financial penalties of up to £200
• 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.

Who to contact

As a university community we are not expected to 'police' this, but we are expecting our staff and students to be responsible for their own wellbeing, as well as others within our University community. If you witness any instances of expectations not being met, you should respectfully remind the relevant individual of social distancing and safety recommendations and/or Government legal requirements.

If you feel that the request is not being acted on then you can choose to report the incident through the following means providing the name(s) of the student(s) and/or member(s) of staff you wish to report:

-For making a formal complaint about a member of staff please use the Complaints Procedure-https://www.uel.ac.uk/about/about-uel/governance/policies-regulations-corporate-documents/student-policies/student-complaint-procedure

-For making a formal complaint about a student contact the Student Conduct Team

-For raising concerns that relate to harassment or abuse, please use the report and support tool-

We have introduced a number of local requirements deigned to keep everyone safe:

- Participate in Daily Health updates via Track My Future
- Participate in test and trace using the NHS app
- Utilise the University's SafeZone App when arriving/departing campus, to help Security understand who is here.
- Self-isolate and obtain a test, in-line with Government guidance, should Covid-19 symptoms occur
- Wear a face covering inside our campus buildings, unless exempt
- Comply with published social distancing guidelines at all times
- Practice good hygiene, in-line with published guidance

These measures are designed to maintain health and safety at the university. Adhering to health and safety requirements forms part of the Code of Conduct, and during these challenging times looking after each other's health and safety is paramount.

Additionally, as of 28th September 2020, it is now a legal requirement to self-isolate if you have been told to do so, with fines of £1000 and the possibility of a criminal record. The university will support Police investigations and any students found to have engaged in illegal activity will also face disciplinary action from the university. If a student's behaviour continues to be Covid- negligent, then the university may take disciplinary actions regardless of any Police investigations.

The UEL community of students and staff has come together to ensure that we can continue to provide education at this time of global crisis. We must continue to work together in this way and play our part by following the university's requirements for Covid- secure behaviours.

Dr Ian Pickup
Chief Operating Officer
2nd October 2020