



Student Conduct and Discipline Regulations Appendix 1

Student Conduct and COVID-19

1. The University takes the health, safety and wellbeing of all its students, staff and visitors seriously and in response to the Covid-19 pandemic has introduced some additional requirements to its Student Discipline and Conduct Regulations.
2. The University has implemented a range of measures to ensure the safety of students and staff in response Covid-19 and it will keep these under review as the academic year progresses and update them as required.
3. Changes to University policy will be published on the [Information for Students webpages](#) and updates made to policies and regulations as appropriate.
4. All members of the University community, including students, are required to follow social distancing, safety recommendations, including wearing face coverings where appropriate and all other relevant legal and University requirements put in place to respond to COVID-19.
5. The University recognises that not all these requirements are part of normal University life but under current circumstances, all members of its community have a collective responsibility to ensure that they take all possible action to keep each other safe where possible.
6. In accordance with the Student Conduct and Discipline Regulations and the [Dignity and Respect Policy \(PDF, 410kb\)](#), students are required to behave with respect and courtesy at all times, this includes when students are living in the local community.
7. The University will investigate where appropriate, alleged breaches of its Regulations including those relating to social distancing and national or local requirements linked to Covid-19 wherever they take place.
8. University buildings and facilities will indicate safety measures including social distancing and the wearing of face coverings (except where students or staff are exempt in place for particular areas).
9. Students should familiarise themselves with these measures, act in accordance with them and follow any reasonable instruction issued by a member of staff.
10. Students may be subject to fitness to practice proceedings where allegations are received for those are registered on the following programmes: Doctor of Clinical Psychology, MBChB degrees, BSc Operating Department Practice, PGCE, MSc Midwifery and Leadership, MSc in Nursing and Leaderships, BSc in Physiotherapy and awards in Counselling.
11. Students with general Covid-19 related concerns can email: [studentcovidsupport@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:studentcovidsupport@leicester.ac.uk)

Live and Learn Student Bubbles

12. The University has introduced Live and Learn Student Bubbles for the 2020/21 academic year based on households. Student in such bubbles are not required to maintain social distancing within their bubbles so may:

1. Travel to and from University together
  2. Study together
  3. Sit and eat together
  4. Socialise in and outside their accommodation
13. Students must comply with all requirements outside of their Live and Learn Bubble.
14. Students in bubbles may be asked to provide evidence to prove that they are part of a bubble if they are subject to challenge, for example, if they are not social distancing.
15. Live and learn bubbles only apply where students live together and share facilities within their accommodation

**Minor Breaches of COVID-19 Student Conduct Regulations and Informal Resolution**

16. In most cases, minor breaches of Regulations, for example, failing to respect social distancing, not following building in/out signage, requirements should be resolved at the point they occur.
17. In such cases, staff should remind students of the University's expectations and ask them to respect them in future.
18. Where students comply with such requests there will be no further action.
19. Most potential breaches should be handled when they occur an appropriate member of staff, from the student's School or a University Service, depending on where the alleged breach takes place.
20. If a student fails to respond in full to an alleged breach, any sanction applied will take into consideration their level of cooperation alongside any presented evidence. This will result in a referral to the Student Conduct Team and may be considered as a significant breach.

**Significant Concerns or Alleged Breaches of Regulations**

21. In some circumstances a potential breach will require escalation, for example in cases where students:
- repeat previous behaviour and requests to address the behaviour have been ignored
  - are verbally aggressive or abusive.
  - refuse to follow government or University guidance.
  - intentionally gather in large groups that are not part of their Live and Learn Student Bubble.
  - organise and/or attend an unsanctioned gathering, including house parties or similar events in University and/or private accommodation. Those who are a registered occupant of the property and inside the property at the time of the breach may be liable to disciplinary proceedings.
  - publish views or pictures on social media that undermine current COVID-19 safety measures.
  - do not provide an honest factual account in response to alleged breaches.

22. The above is not an exhaustive list and breaches shall be considered in line with the current government guidance.
23. If there is a significant breach of the University’s COVID-19 guidance, the Student Conduct team will in most cases, initiate formal disciplinary proceedings in line with the Student Conduct and Discipline Regulations (Senate Regulation 11).
24. Temporary Suspension Orders will be issued by the Academic Registrar or their nominee following a reported breach of COVID-19 safety measures to the Student Conduct Team.
25. Precautionary measures will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may be issued whilst the reported breach is investigated. (SR11.52)
26. If a Temporary Suspension Order is issued, this will usually be for a two-week period for COVID-19 safety measure breaches but may be extended dependant on potential risk to the student themselves or others.
27. If the breach involves a possible hate crime, and any other forms of unacceptable behaviours the Student Support Services team should be contacted and case management offered. Students can self-refer using the [Report and Support](#) form and staff can contact the team by emailing [welfare@le.ac.uk](mailto:welfare@le.ac.uk).

**Sanctions for Breaches of COVID-19 Requirements**

1 <sup>st</sup> minor breach	School or Service address verbally with students concerned, remind them of expectations and ask that they meet their obligations in future
2 <sup>nd</sup> minor breach	Head of School or Service issues a written warning
<p>3<sup>rd</sup> breach or significant breach</p> <p>Examples of significant breach of <i>COVID- 19</i> guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hate related incident i.e. targeting someone because of a protected characteristic and making inferences regarding COVID-19</li> <li>• Claiming or suspected to have COVID-19 and refusing to comply with the safety measures</li> <li>• Organising and/or attending unsanctioned gathering including house parties or similar events</li> <li>• Do not follow the self-isolation guidance</li> </ul>	<p>Referred to Student Conduct</p> <p>Precautionary measures will usually be invoked in the form of a fixed term Temporary Suspension Order.</p> <p>Student Conduct to consider formal disciplinary action under the Student Conduct and Discipline Regulations. Where a breach is found to have occurred following an investigation sanctions will follow the guidance published in SR11.99</p>