STUDENT DISCIPLINE

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL CHANGES

General changes

Amendments to version 06.0 are restricted to Appendix I only

- There are several institutional processes/procedures and associated regulations common to UPR SA13 and UPR SA15, namely those relating to:

  Student Disciplinary Panels;
  Student Academic Misconduct Panels;
  Suspension or Exclusion from the University by the Vice-Chancellor;
  Conduct of Panel Hearing.

- The University Schedule of Sanctions and Penalties for Academic and Non-Academic Misconduct applies both to UPR SA13 and to UPR SA15.

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STUDENT DISCIPLINE

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The policies, regulations and procedures set out in this document (UPR SA13) have been approved by the Board of Governors and are amended with effect from 14 March 2018 on the authority of the Secretary and Registrar.

1.2 In the implementation of the policies and regulations set out in this document, the Board of Governors and the Vice-Chancellor will be guided by the ‘Notes of Guidance on Student Disciplinary Procedures’ published by the CVCP in December 1994.

1.3 Information concerning sanctions and penalties is set out in Appendix I, UPR SA13/Appendix I, UPR SA15.

2 ABBREVIATIONS

HEFCE  Higher Education Funding Council for England
OIA  Office of the Independent Adjudicator
SBU  Strategic Business Unit
SDP  Student Disciplinary Panel
SAMP  Student Academic Misconduct Panel
UPRs  University Policies and Regulations

2 Appendix I, UPR SA13 ‘University Schedule of Sanctions and Penalties for Academic and Non-Academic Disciplinary Offences’
3 Appendix I, UPR SA15 ‘University Schedule of Sanctions and Penalties for Academic and Non-Academic Disciplinary Offences’
3 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this document the following definition will apply:

3.1 ‘student’:

a person registered by the University of Hertfordshire following a University owned and/or delivered taught programme or programme of research which will be assessed and will normally lead to a University award and any other person to whom the University provides educational services (such as ‘short courses’) who has agreed to be bound by the University’s regulations;

3.2 ‘Case Officer’:

the individual responsible for presenting the case before a Student Disciplinary Panel or Student Academic Misconduct Panel;

3.3 ‘Academic Misconduct’:

the following offences constitute Academic Misconduct:

i plagiarism, as defined in section 2.1.2 Appendix III, UPR AS14\(^4\), where an Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance) (or nominee) considers that the matter is serious and should be dealt with under the provisions of the student disciplinary procedures (UPR SA13, refers) or be considered under the provisions of UPR SA15\(^1\);

ii cheating, as defined in section 2.1.1 Appendix III, UPR AS14\(^5\);

iii collusion, as defined in section 2.1.3, Appendix III, UPR AS14\(^5\), where an Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance) (or nominee) considers that the matter is serious and should be dealt with under the provisions of the student disciplinary procedures (UPR SA13, refers) or be considered under the provisions of UPR SA15\(^1\), in which case the circumstances will include, but may not necessarily be limited to:

a where an allegation of collusion has been made and one or more of the parties contests it, the matter will be dealt with through the student disciplinary procedure for the specific purpose of determining whether the alleged offence has been committed and by whom; where the disciplinary process identifies an offender, in addition to any disciplinary penalty that may be applied under the provisions of Appendix I, UPR SA13\(^2\) or Appendix I, UPR SA15\(^4\), the matter will then be referred to the appropriate Short Course/Module Board of Examiners;

iv breach of professional confidentiality;

v failure to obtain ethics approval prior to undertaking work involving human participants (UPR RE01\(^5\), refers) where the Chairman of the relevant Ethics Committee with Delegated Authority (ECDA), acting as the nominee of the relevant Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance), considers the matter to be sufficiently serious to be dealt with under the provisions of UPR SA13 or UPR SA15\(^1\) (UPR RE01\(^6\), refers);

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\(^4\) UPR AS14, Appendix III ‘Assessment Offences’

\(^5\) UPR RE01 ‘Studies Involving the Use of Human Participants’
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failure to comply with the terms and conditions of an ethics approval granted for work involving human participants (UPR RE01⁶, refers) where the Chairman of the relevant ECDA, acting as the nominee of the relevant Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance), considers the matter to be sufficiently serious to be dealt with under the provisions of UPR SA13 or UPR SA15¹ (UPR RE01⁶, refers);

(Note for guidance:)

The matters referred to in section 3.3, v, and vi, concern alleged failure to obtain Ethics approval prior to undertaking work involving human participants (UPR RE01⁶, refers); and/or failure to comply with the terms and conditions of an ethics approval granted for work involving Human Participants (UPR RE01⁶, refers).

For the proper administration of these procedures, where an allegation is received by the Chairman or Clerk of an ECDA or other member of staff, he or she is expected to inform the relevant Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance) who will ensure that the matter is referred to the most appropriate ECDA Chairman and that he or she has been formally designated to act as nominee.

The Chairman of the ECDA so designated is required to follow the procedures set out in section 5.3, Appendix III, UPR AS14⁵ and to ensure that the Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance) is fully briefed on the progress of the matter.

Where the Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance) is also the Chairman of the ECDA and intends to deal with the allegation in that capacity, he or she may nominate another member of staff of appropriate standing to act as the nominee of the Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance) for the purposes of the procedures in Appendix III, UPR AS14⁵.)

3.4  ‘Non-Academic Misconduct’:

a breach of the non-academic regulations of the University, for example, the regulations relating to security or car parking; harassment and bullying or local, non-academic regulations determined, for example, by a Dean of School or the Chief Information Officer or the manager of another academic or non-academic area.

3.5  ‘Assessment Offence’:

Assessment Offences are defined in Appendix I, UPR AS12⁶, and Appendix I, UPR AS13⁷, and are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of Appendix III, UPR AS14⁵.

3.6  ‘Letter’

(Section 15, also refers.)

the Letter prescribed by the Secretary and Registrar for use at a specific point in this process.

(Note:

The Secretary and Registrar has approved standard letters which are to be used at different stages of the Student Disciplinary process in order to communicate with students and other individuals involved in matters being considered under these procedures.

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⁶ UPR AS12, Appendix I ‘Assessments and Examinations - Regulations for Candidates (Including Requests for the Review of Examination Decisions (Appeals Procedure) (University-delivered provision)’

⁷ UPR AS13, Appendix I ‘Assessments and Examinations - Regulations for Candidates (Including Requests for the Review of Examination Decisions (Appeals Procedure)) (Partner Organisation-delivered provision)’
Letters must be sent by Recorded Mail and to the email address the student has provided to the University for all correspondence Appendix VI, UPR SA13, refer.)

4 JURISDICTION OF THE UNIVERSITY

4.1 The University of Hertfordshire is a community whose members work and study in close proximity with each other. The University owes a duty of care to, and has responsibilities towards, each member of that community. For such a community to continue to be successful, it is essential that its individual members adhere to certain standards of good behaviour. These are described in detail in the Student Code of Conduct (UPR SA01, refers) and the supporting Statement of Responsibilities and Commitments (Appendix I, UPR SA01, refers).

4.2 The University of Hertfordshire takes seriously its responsibilities to the local and wider community, recognises its broader social responsibilities as a Higher Education institution and is committed to upholding, through its aims, objectives and mission, certain standards and values. The University shall at all times be entitled to uphold and protect its good name and reputation and, therefore, reserves the right to take disciplinary action against students where there is reason to believe that they may have breached University regulations or brought the University into disrepute through their behaviour on University premises or elsewhere.

5 SCOPE

5.1 These policies and procedures apply to all students of the University of Hertfordshire.

5.2 All students should note that they are bound by the University's regulations and procedures and that acceptance of these regulations and procedures is a condition of registration for all students of the University of Hertfordshire. These regulations and procedures apply also to other persons to whom the University provides educational services (such as 'short courses') who are required to be bound by University regulations.

5.3 Students registered on programmes delivered at Partner Organisations which lead to awards of the University

5.3.1 Alleged Academic Misconduct

Where it is alleged that a student may have committed an Academic Misconduct offence, the matter will be dealt with initially by the Partner Organisation in accordance with the policies, regulations and procedures operated by the Organisation. Following the Organisation's final decision, students shall have a right to request a review by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in accordance with the procedure and on the limited grounds set out in Appendix III, UPR SA13. The decision of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in relation to the review shall be final and binding on all parties. Having exhausted the University's internal procedures and subject to the provisions of legislation, the student has the right to request the Office of the Independent Adjudicator to review his or her case.

5.3.2 Alleged Non-Academic Misconduct and criminal offences

i Students are subject to the policies, regulations and procedures of the Partner Organisation relating to criminal offences and Non-Academic Misconduct. Any alleged breaches of such policies, regulations and procedures will be dealt with by the Organisation in accordance with the policies, regulations and procedures operated by the Organisation. The decision of the Partner Organisation in respect of Non-Academic Misconduct and criminal offences is final and binding on all parties. Having exhausted the Partner Organisation's internal procedures and subject to the provisions of legislation, the student has the right to request the Office of the Independent Adjudicator to review his or her case.
Academic Misconduct shall be final, save and except, the student may petition the University for a procedural review of the handling by the Organisation of the matter once all internal levels of appeal at the Organisation have been exhausted. The University shall not have jurisdiction in such matters and will only have limited powers to review the matter which shall not include overturning the decision made by the Organisation but shall include acting in an advisory capacity to the Organisation.

ii It should be noted that a Partner Organisation may request the University to advise in certain circumstances. Such cases will be dealt with in accordance with the relevant University procedures and the University reserves the right to impose on a student or graduate any of the penalties set out in Appendix I, UPR SA13 / Appendix I, UPR SA15 or elsewhere in University regulations.

6 ROLE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

6.1 Designation of deputies and nominees for the purposes of UPR SA13

The Vice-Chancellor may, from time-to-time, at his or her sole discretion, identify nominees and deputise individuals to act on his or her behalf in respect of all aspects of the procedures set out in these regulations (UPR SA13), save and except that where it is proposed that a student should be suspended or excluded from the University the decision will be made only by the Vice-Chancellor or, in the Vice-Chancellor’s absence, by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, or in the absence of both the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the senior University official who has been designated by the Vice-Chancellor to undertake the acting position on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor. The Student Procedures Co-ordinator will maintain a written record of the delegations made by the Vice-Chancellor under the provisions of section 6.1.

6.2 The Vice-Chancellor may make an anonymised report to the President of the Students’ Union concerning any matter of student discipline and will do so in all cases of suspension or exclusion.

7 ROLE OF THE SECRETARY AND REGISTRAR

The Secretary and Registrar is responsible to the Vice-Chancellor and the Board of Governors for the proper administration of the policies, regulations and procedures set out in this document. Where it is believed that an offence may have occurred, the Secretary and Registrar has discretion to refer the matter to the appropriate stage of these procedures.

8 POLICY

8.1 General

8.1.1 Regardless of whether or not the incident took place on premises owned or occupied by the University, the University reserves the right to invoke disciplinary proceedings against a student where it is believed that the student may have:

a committed a criminal offence and/or
b committed an Academic Misconduct offence and/or
c committed an Non-Academic Misconduct offence and/or
d acted in a manner which has or is likely to bring the University into disrepute.

8.1.2 Where a student enrolled on a Professional Programme (as defined in section 3.1.7, UPR SA15) is alleged to have behaved in a way that calls into question his or her fitness to practise, the matter will be dealt with under the provisions of UPR SA15.
8.1.3 In applying its disciplinary policies and procedures the University will have due regard for the needs of those students who are disabled, for example, those who have mental health difficulties (UPR EQ07\textsuperscript{12}, refers).

8.1.4 Should disciplinary proceedings occur during or before a period of assessment and there is concern that such proceedings may affect a student’s performance in an assessment, students are expected to apply for an extension to the assessment deadline and/or submit Serious Adverse Circumstances to the relevant Module Board of Examiners (section C.2.8, UPR AS14\textsuperscript{13}, refers).

8.1.5 The University will make reasonable efforts to handle cases efficiently and to comply with the time periods specified in this document (UPR SA13).

8.2 Breach of University regulations by students (Academic Misconduct and Non-Academic Misconduct)

8.2.1 Unless it has been deemed appropriate to deal with a matter under the provisions of UPR SA15\textsuperscript{1}, alleged Academic and Non-Academic Misconduct by students will be dealt with in accordance with UPR SA13.

8.2.2 It should be noted that where an allegation is proven, the University reserves the right to include full information about the case on the offending student’s personal file.

8.3 Students’ fitness to practise

(Section D11, UPR AS14\textsuperscript{14} and UPR SA15\textsuperscript{1} refer.)

8.4 Schedule of Sanctions and Penalties for Academic and Non-Academic Misconduct offences

8.4.1 The University reserves the right, at its absolute discretion to impose sanctions and penalties, as set out in Appendix I, UPR SA13\textsuperscript{3}/Appendix I, UPR SA15\textsuperscript{4}, in circumstances where an offence has been proven. These sanctions and penalties are not absolute and the University reserves the right to vary them where it deems this to be appropriate.

8.4.2 In determining the sanction or penalty to be imposed, the relevant Panel will have regard for mitigating circumstances presented for consideration at any Hearing.

8.5 Criminal offences by students

(Note:

Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015

For the avoidance of doubt, the University’s policy is to treat alleged breaches of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and/or of the Home Office guidance ‘Prevent Duty Guidance for Higher Education Institutions in England and Wales’ (2015) in the same way as other alleged serious criminal offences.

Unacceptable or criminal activities, and/or the expression of views that constitute extremist views that risk drawing individuals into terrorism or are shared by terrorist groups, or membership of a Proscribed Organisation (an organisation proscribed by the Home Secretary under the Terrorism Acts 2000 and 2006 for involvement with terrorist activity) are offences under the terms of University regulations (Appendix I, UPR SA13\textsuperscript{3}/Appendix I, UPR SA15\textsuperscript{4} refer.)

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\textsuperscript{12} UPR EQ07 ‘Student Mental Health’
\textsuperscript{13} UPR AS14 ‘Structure and Assessment Regulations – Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes’
8.5.1 The University expects that all serious criminal offences should be reported to the Police. The University encourages students who are victims of crime to report incidents to the Police.

8.5.2 Where it is suspected that a criminal offence may have been committed by a student, regardless of whether or not the incident took place on University property, the Vice-Chancellor may report the matter to the Police and may also inform the President of the Students' Union. In exceptional cases, the Vice-Chancellor may suspend or exclude the student from the University, as the Vice-Chancellor thinks fit in all the circumstances. A review of any such decision will be undertaken within ten (10) working days.

8.5.3 The University recognises that any offence which is likely to attract a custodial sentence should be dealt with initially by the Courts. However, it should be noted that each case will be judged according to its individual circumstances.

8.5.4 In all cases, the University reserves the right to seek advice from its solicitors and/or to discuss with the Police whether charges should be brought.

8.5.5 Where a victim refuses to report to the Police an alleged serious offence, or one which is likely to attract a custodial sentence, only in circumstances which are of an exceptional nature and/or where the public interest must take precedence, will the Vice-Chancellor report such an alleged offence to the Police against the wishes of the victim.

8.5.6 Owing to the inherent risks and serious concerns for both the University and the students involved, the Vice-Chancellor (or nominee) may institute internal disciplinary proceedings in the event that the victim of an alleged serious criminal offence has refused to report the allegation to the Police.

8.5.7 It should be noted that all such cases (8.5.5 and 8.5.6, refer) will be judged by the Vice-Chancellor in the light of individual circumstances. Where the Vice-Chancellor is satisfied that exceptional circumstances apply, he or she may resolve to deal with the matter internally through the Student Disciplinary Procedures set out in this document (UPR SA13) or via the procedures set out in UPR SA15.

8.5.8 **Criminal offences by students - reporting**

i Where a student is charged with or convicted of a criminal offence, he or she is required to report the matter formally and immediately to the Dean of Students.

ii Members of staff who become aware that a student has been charged with or convicted of a criminal offence should report such information immediately to the Dean of Students.

iii The Dean of Students is required to inform both the Secretary and Registrar and the Vice-Chancellor and when making such reports will provide advice to enable the seriousness of the alleged offence to be assessed and an appropriate course of action determined by the Vice-Chancellor. The Vice-Chancellor, at his or her absolute discretion, may suspend or exclude the student from the University (section 11, refers).

8.5.9 **Criminal offences by students - general principles to be applied in the administration of discipline where a student has been charged with a criminal offence**

In cases where a student has been charged with a criminal offence, the Vice-Chancellor will adhere to the following general principles:

i he or she will be guided, where relevant, by the decision of the Court;
8.6 **Students who have withdrawn**

Where a student against whom an allegation has been made, withdraws from the University prior to the matter being resolved under the provisions of University regulations, the University reserves the right, at its absolute discretion, to proceed with a Hearing and/or any other processes permitted by University regulations, including, but not necessarily limited to, reporting the outcome to the relevant Regulator, as defined in section 3.1.1, UPR SA15.

9 **STUDENT DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE - NON-ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

9.1 Non-Academic Misconduct – notification of allegations

Allegations of Non-Academic Misconduct will be notified in writing to the Office of the Dean of Students.

9.2 Non-Academic Misconduct – Stage 1 – preliminary process

9.2.1 The Office of the Dean of Students will investigate the allegation by appointing an independent person to carry out an investigation.

9.2.2 Where there is evidence that:

a an offence may have been committed in University accommodation and/or
b an offence may have been committed in relation to services or premises managed by Library and Computing Services and/or
c an offence of another type or in another area may have been committed and/or
d the nature of the alleged offence is not serious and/or
e it is a first offence,

the Office of the Dean of Students, at its absolute discretion, may seek to resolve the matter informally.

The Office of the Dean of Students:

a has discretion to determine an appropriate informal process to be used in each case;
b has discretion to impose a reasonable penalty which might include:

1 a ‘first warning’ or
2 where relevant, an appropriate Residential Accommodation sanction or penalty, up to and including, dismissal from University Accommodation;
3 a requirement on the student to apologise and/or to give an undertaking as to his or her future behaviour, fines or work by the offender to make good damage caused.

9.2.3 Non-Academic Misconduct – Stage 2 - referral to the formal process

Where there is evidence that an offence may have been committed and that:

a the nature of the offence is serious and/or
b it is not a first offence and/or
c the student is not prepared to accept the penalty or sanction imposed at the informal stage,
the Office of the Dean of Students will refer the matter together with a written report of the investigation conducted under the provisions of section 9.2 to the Student Procedures Co-ordinator for consideration by a Student Disciplinary Panel.

9.3 Non-Academic Misconduct - Stage 2 - formal process

9.3.1 The Student Procedures Co-ordinator will:

a within five (5) working days or as soon as possible thereafter, issue a Letter (Appendix VI, UPR SA139, refers) to the student and

b within ten (10) working days or as soon as possible thereafter, convene a Student Disciplinary Panel to consider the matter (Appendix II, UPR SA1314, refers).

(Note for guidance – Student Disciplinary Panel

A Student Disciplinary Panel is an ad hoc panel convened on the authority of the Vice-Chancellor. Student Disciplinary Panels may be convened, as appropriate, to deal with matters under the provisions of UPR SA13 or UPR SA151.

Appendix II, UPR SA1315 gives full information about Student Disciplinary Panels, their operation under the provisions of UPR SA13, their governance, composition and powers, and the process for requesting a review of a Panel decision.)

10 STUDENT DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE - ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

10.1 Academic Misconduct – Preliminary process

10.1.1 In accordance with the provisions of Appendix III, UPR AS145, cases of alleged Academic Misconduct will be notified in writing by the appropriate Associate Dean (Academic Quality Assurance) (or nominee) to the Student Procedures Co-ordinator for consideration by a Student Academic Misconduct Panel.

10.1.2 Included will be the written report of the preliminary investigation carried out by the Associate Dean (Academic Quality Assurance) (or nominee) under the provisions of Appendix III, UPR AS145.

(Note:

Associate Deans of School (Academic Quality Assurance) will ensure that where a module is being delivered to students from more than one School, in determining the arrangements for such a collaboration, they also clarify which School is to ‘lead’ in the event that a disciplinary issue arises and that these arrangements are communicated to relevant staff and as necessary, to students.)

10.2 Academic Misconduct - formal process

10.2.1 The Student Procedures Co-ordinator will:

a within five (5) working days of receipt of the referral from the Associate Dean (Academic Quality Assurance) (or nominee) or as soon as possible thereafter, issue a Letter (Appendix VI, UPR SA139, refers) to the student and

b within ten (10) working days or as soon as possible thereafter, convene a Student Academic Misconduct Panel to consider the matter (Appendix III, UPR SA1312, refers).
(Note for guidance – Student Academic Misconduct Panel)

A Student Academic Misconduct Panel is an ad hoc panel convened on the authority of the Vice-Chancellor. Student Academic Misconduct Panels may be convened, as appropriate, to deal with matters under the provisions of UPR SA13 or UPR SA15.

Appendix III, UPR SA13 gives full information about Student Academic Misconduct Panels, their operation under the provisions of UPR SA13, their governance, composition and powers, and the process for requesting a review of a Panel decision.)

11 SUSPENSION OR EXCLUSION FROM THE UNIVERSITY BY, OR ON THE AUTHORITY OF, THE VICE-CHANCELLOR (GENERIC PROCESS)

Appendix IV, UPR SA13, refers.

(Note for guidance – Suspension or Exclusion from the University by the Vice-Chancellor)

The process whereby the Vice-Chancellor exercises his or her power to Suspend or Exclude a student from the University may be invoked under the provisions of UPR SA13 or UPR SA15 or otherwise as the Vice-Chancellor thinks fit.

Appendix IV, UPR SA13 gives full information about the process and about how a request may be made for the review of a decision by a Review Committee of the Board of Governors.)

12 OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT ADJUDICATOR

Having exhausted the University internal procedures and subject to the provisions of legislation, the student has the right to request the Office of the Independent Adjudicator to review his or her case.

13 LEGAL REDRESS

Nothing in this document is intended to exclude or limit the student’s right to bring legal proceedings.

14 MONITORING

14.1 The University will monitor the operation of these policies and procedures and will publish non-confidential data.

14.2 The Vice-Chancellor will submit an Annual Report to the Academic Board and to the Board of Governors on the operation of the University’s student disciplinary procedures. The information in the Annual Report will be anonymised.

15 STANDARD FORMS AND CORRESPONDENCE

16.1 The Secretary and Registrar will devise and issue standard forms and correspondence to be used in conjunction with UPR SA13 (Appendix VI, UPR SA13, refers).

16.2 Associate Deans of School (Academic Quality Assurance) and/or the Dean of Students will ensure that only the current standard forms and letters approved by the Secretary and Registrar from time-to-time are used (Appendix VI, UPR SA13, refers).

Appendix IV, UPR SA13 ‘Suspension or Exclusion from the University by the Vice-Chancellor’
(Note for guidance)

Schools are required to use the current versions of the forms and standard letters approved by the Secretary and Registrar and are not permitted to use forms and letters created locally. Where a change to an existing form or letter, or an additional form or letter is thought necessary, a request should be made in the first instance to the Student Procedures Coordinator.

Mrs S C Grant
Secretary and Registrar
Signed: 14 March 2018