STUDENT DISCIPLINE

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL CHANGES

General changes

Amendments to version 07.0 have been made to bring this UPR in line with changes to Appendix III, UPR AS 14 ‘Academic Misconduct’ (formerly titled ‘Assessment Offences’)

- 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.

Appendix I
University Schedule of Sanctions and Penalties for Academic and Non-Academic Disciplinary Offences

Appendix II
Student Disciplinary Panel and Review of a Student Disciplinary Panel Decision

Appendix III
Student Academic Misconduct Panel and Review of a Student Academic Misconduct Panel Decision

Appendix IV
Suspension or Exclusion from the University by the Vice-Chancellor

Appendix V
Conduct of Panels and Hearings

Appendix VI
Approved Letters and Forms
(Specific to UPR SA13)

Appendix VI
Approved Letters and Forms
(Specific to UPR SA15)
(Amendments to version 07.0, UPR SA13 are shown in italics.)

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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\(^1\) and are amended with effect from 1 September 2019 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\(^2\)/Appendix I, UPR SA15\(^3\).

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

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;


\(^2\) 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'
3.2 ‘Case Officer’:

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

3.3 ‘Academic Misconduct’:

section 2.1, Appendix III, UPR AS14, refers;

(Note for guidance

Section 2.1, Appendix III, UPR AS14, sets out the institutional definition of ‘Academic Misconduct’, which is not repeated in this document.

Section 4.3.3, Appendix III, UPR AS14, sets the criteria for referral of Academic Misconduct offences to a Student Academic Misconduct Panel under UPR SA13 (unless the decision has been taken to refer the case to a Fitness to Practise Panel under UPR SA15)

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 ‘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. 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

4 Appendix VI, UPR SA13 ‘Approved Letters and Forms’
5 UPR SA01 ‘Student Code of Conduct’
6 UPR SA01, Appendix I, ‘Statement of Responsibilities and Commitments’
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 SA137. 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 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 SA133/Appendix I, UPR SA154 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, 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, 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, alleged Academic and Non-Academic Misconduct by students will be dealt with in accordance with UPR SA13.

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UPR EQ07 ‘Student Mental Health’
UPR AS14 ‘Structure and Assessment Regulations – Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes’
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\(^\text{14}\) and UPR SA15\(^\text{1}\) 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\(^{3}\)/Appendix I, UPR SA15\(^{4}\), 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\(^{3}\)/Appendix I, UPR SA15\(^{4}\) refer.)

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 SA151.

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;

ii in the event that the Police or the Crown Prosecution Service resolve not to proceed with a case, the University may nevertheless continue with internal disciplinary proceedings in relation to the matter where it has been confirmed that the decision by the Crown Prosecution Service or the Police not to proceed was based on some special factor other than the quality of the evidence.

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 SA151.

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 SA1310, 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.)
STUDENT DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE - ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

10.1 Academic Misconduct – Preliminary process

10.1.1 In accordance with the provisions of Appendix III, UPR AS14, 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 AS14.

(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 SA13, 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 SA13, 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 ‘Suspension or Exclusion from the University by the Vice-Chancellor’
Appendix IV, UPR SA13\textsuperscript{16} 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\textsuperscript{9}, 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\textsuperscript{9}, refers).

(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 Co-ordinator.)

Mrs S C Grant
Secretary and Registrar
Signed: 1 September 2019