



This Code is issued by the Board of Governors of the University pursuant to section 43 of the Education Act (No 2) 1986 and applies to Students of the University

Students must abide by the university policy here:

<https://demontfortuniversity.sharepoint.com/sites/DMUHome/org/POD/HR/Documents/Freedom%20of%20Expression%20and%20Academic%20Freedom.pdf> and any breach of this will be dealt with by the disciplinary procedure in [Chapter 2, University General Regulations](#).

- 1.1 The Education Act (No 2) 1986 requires the University to take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that freedom of speech within the law is secured for its employees, Students and visiting speakers. This also includes the duty to ensure, as is reasonably practicable, that the use of any of the University's premises is not unlawfully denied to any individual or body of persons on the grounds of their beliefs, views, policies or objectives. The University is also required to produce this Code setting out the procedures to be followed by Students and Staff in connection with the organisation of meetings and activities which fall within any class specified within this Code, together with the conduct required of Staff and Students in connection with such meetings and activities.
- 1.2 The University endorses and adopts the principle of freedom of speech and expression within the law as one of the cardinal principles upon which all institutions of learning should be founded. It also has regard to the need to ensure that academic Staff of the University, have freedom within the law to question and test received wisdom, and to put forward new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions, without placing themselves in jeopardy of losing their jobs or any privileges they may have at the University. Every person employed at the University and Students' Union and every Student registering at the University should be aware that joining the University community involves



1.3 This Code of Practice sets out the rights and obligations inherent within the above principle and shall be construed and applied in a spirit of upholding the principle of freedom of speech wherever reasonably possible within the existing legal framework. The Code is also drafted to comply with the University's statutory obligations outlined above. The Code's obligations shall apply to:

- The University (which shall include all bodies or persons having authority to determine any matter relevant to this Code).
- All Staff of the University (whether academic Staff or otherwise) and those whose normal place of work is on University premises.
- All Students of the University (whether full or part-time).
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- 2.1 The principle of freedom of speech set out in this Code shall extend to the performance of the proper functions by academic Staff (which expression shall include visiting and guest lecturers lawfully present by invitation of the University or of any academic tutor). It shall be contrary to this Code for any person or body to which this Code applies to take any action (other than by reasonable and peaceful persuasion or peaceful protest) to prevent the holding of, or continuance of, any lecture, tutorial or other academic activity because of the lawful views held or expressed or which are reasonably likely to be expressed, (whether or not within the University) by the lecturer or tutor concerned, unless the expression of those views is reasonably decided by the University to be likely to jeopardise public safety and order and/or the safety of Staff and Students.
- 2.2 It shall be contrary to this Code for any person or body to whom this Code applies to take any action (other than reasonable and peaceful persuasion or peaceful protest) to prevent any Student or group of Students from attending any academic activity required by, or properly associated with, the course for which they are duly registered because of the views or beliefs held or lawfully expressed (whether or not within the University) by that Student or because of the reasonable likelihood that such views will be expressed.
- 3.1 Where any person or organisation subject to this Code (or, in the case of the Students' Union, any constituent society, club or association) wishes to hold a meeting or like event for the expression of views as set out in paragraph 2, on premises which the University or the Students' Union control, the University or Students' Union (as the case may be) shall not unreasonably refuse consent.
- 3.2 It shall not be a reasonable ground of refusal of permission or facilities for a meeting or like event that the views likely to be expressed there may be controversial or contrary to the interests of the University, the Students' Union, or Central or Local Government, provided the expression of such views is lawful. Expression of opinions which are defamatory, libellous, obscene, abusive, defamatory, or ill discrimination, or harassment and victimisation on the grounds of protected characteristics defined by the Equality Act 2010.



- 3.3 It shall be accepted as reasonable to refuse consent, or withhold facilities for a meeting or similar event to which this Code applies where the University or Students' Union reasonably believes (from the nature of the speakers or from





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