



Student Code of Conduct

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1 Introduction

At William College, we are committed to creating a respectful, inclusive, and supportive learning community. This Student Code of Conduct outlines the standards of behaviour expected from all students to ensure a safe and positive environment for study, personal development, and collaboration.

The Code is based on mutual respect, responsibility, and academic integrity. It is designed not only to set clear expectations but also to support students in making informed and responsible choices as members of our academic community.

2 Purpose

William College is a scholarly community committed to academic excellence, inclusion, and safety. This Code of Conduct sets out the standards of behaviour expected of all students and reflects the College's commitment to maintaining a respectful, supportive, and high-quality learning environment. It aligns with relevant UK higher education regulations, including those of the QAA, OfS, and the Freedom of Speech Act 2023.

Our goal is to ensure that every student has the best possible experience, and we are here to support students in meeting these shared expectations.

3 Scope

This Code of Conduct applies to all students from enrolment through to graduation. It covers behaviour in all contexts associated with the College, including on-campus activities, online engagement, and participation in college-related events.

When enrolling onto a programme, students agree to abide by the College's (and Partner Universities') Terms and Conditions and are expected to ensure that their conduct aligns with the standards set out in this Code.

4 Core Student Expectations

We expect our students to maintain the integrity of our community by adhering to the following key principles:

- **Interpersonal Respect:** Treat everyone with dignity to ensure a safe, inclusive environment.
- **Commitment to Equality and Diversity:** Uphold the College's commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion, and safeguarding the well-being of all its members.
- **Academic and Professional Integrity:** Maintain honesty and integrity in all coursework, including the appropriate and transparent use of artificial intelligence tools in line with academic regulations, and do not engage in fraudulent behaviour, plagiarism, contract cheating, or collusion.
- **Responsible Freedom of Speech:** Engage in respectful debate without inciting violence or harassment.
- **Health and Safety:** The College is committed to ensuring the health and safety of its students and staff and strives to provide a secure environment for work and study. Students must follow reasonable instructions from staff and adhere to health and safety regulations.
- **Compliance:** Follow all College and Partner University policies (including academic regulations, health, safety, and digital conduct) and abide by UK civil and criminal law.
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5 Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom

Under the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023, William College upholds the principle of free expression. Freedom of speech is protected within the law and must be balanced with the rights of others and the College's duty of care.

- Students have the right to engage in open debate, express opinions, and challenge prevailing ideas.
- Freedom of Speech does not protect speech that incites violence, discrimination, or harassment.
- Students must respect the rights of others to express differing views without fear of intimidation or censorship.
- Public events, debates, and guest speakers will be facilitated in accordance with institutional policies, ensuring lawful and constructive dialogue.

Any restrictions applied will be lawful, necessary and proportionate.

Violations of this principle may result in disciplinary action.

6 Digital Conduct and Social Media Use

Students must:

- Use digital platforms responsibly and not engage in cyberbullying, harassment, or the spread of misinformation.
- Ensure that social media activity does not unlawfully harm the reputation of the College, breach confidentiality, or violate College policies.
- Respect copyright laws and avoid academic misconduct, including the inappropriate or undisclosed use of artificial intelligence tools or contract cheating.

7 Student Responsibilities and Expectations

As members of William College, students share the responsibility for maintaining a safe and supportive environment conducive to study, living, and working.

Students are expected to:

- Treat all members of the William College community with respect, avoiding offensive, discriminatory, or aggressive behaviour or language in any form, whether in person, over the phone, in messages, writing, or online platforms, including social media. Do not participate in bullying, threats, harassment, or coercion, nor encourage others to engage in such behaviour.
- Respect the privacy of other students and staff and not access, copy, or share private information or confidential information.
- Promote equity and inclusivity by valuing diversity at William College and refraining from discriminatory actions based on disability, gender, race, cultural background, religious or spiritual beliefs, sexual orientation, or physical appearance. Discriminatory behaviour includes verbal, written, and online communication, as well as academic work.
- Not engage in sexual harm, including sexual harassment, assault, coercive control, stalking, or sharing intimate images without consent.
- Not engage in criminal activities or any unlawful acts while on William College premises or participating in college-related activities.
- Not engage in behaviour that would compromise the integrity of the William College's activities by offering, promising, giving, receiving or soliciting a financial, academic or other advantage or favour as a means to influencing the actions of others, or otherwise securing a particular end.

8 Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Action

The Student Disciplinary Policy and Procedures applies when a student is suspected of breaching this Code of Conduct. The College considers misconduct to include any behaviour that:

- Improperly interferes with or negatively impacts the College's community, activities, interests, property, or reputation, where such impact is reasonable, proportionate, and supported by evidence.
- Compromises the safety, well-being, learning, research, or student experience of its members, including students, staff, and visitors.
- Goes against this Code of Conduct.

Misconduct may occur in various settings, including:

- College-related activities such as teaching, placements, field trips, and extracurricular events.
- On-campus and off-campus environments, including digital platforms.
- During and outside of term time, particularly if it impacts the College's reputation locally or more widely.

The Student Disciplinary Policy and Procedures outlines the potential sanctions that may be imposed when a student is found to have breached this Code of Conduct.

Students are encouraged to report concerns or breaches of this Code through appropriate College channels. The College will provide support to those affected by misconduct.

The College may impose sanctions, including suspension or expulsion, where breaches are serious and/or persistent.

9 Related Policies and Documents

- Student Disciplinary Policy and Procedures.
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.
- Academic Integrity and Misconduct Policy.
- Terms and Conditions.
- Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech Code of Practice.