

The Student Charter

1. Our Vision

Welcome to Newcastle University! This Student Charter was developed jointly by Newcastle University and the Students' Union and sets out the rights and responsibilities of all our students. An explanation of definitions used in this charter can be found here:

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/mediav8/student-progress/files/Definitions.pdf>

Our vision is of Newcastle as a world-leading University, advancing knowledge, providing creative solutions and solving problems. This vision is based firmly on our core values:

- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- Social and environmental justice
- Academic freedom

It is also informed by three aspirational values that guide everything we do:

Excellence, Creativity and Impact.

We will inspire, challenge and empower you to reach your full potential, and support and care for you as you do.

2. Personal conduct

All students agree to adhere to the Student Charter when joining the University during registration, this includes maintaining high standards of personal conduct and recognising and respecting the rights of others. **Please see the Student Behavioural Code of Conduct at the end of this document.**

Mutual respect and understanding is at the heart of what we do and all members of the University community are expected to:

- Treat one another with courtesy, dignity and respect;
- Promote an inclusive environment that challenges all forms of discrimination, bullying and victimisation;
- Express our opinions in a way which is lawful and which protects the University's commitment to Freedom of Speech.

3. Academic Life: Your Rights

Our students are treated as full members of the University community and we seek to work in partnership with you to shape your University experience. Whether studying on a taught programme or working towards a research degree, all of our students have the right to:

- Be provided with timely and relevant information about what is expected of you and what support is available to you;
- Be given reasonable notice of changes to your programme of study, timetable or curriculum, where these are known in advance;
- Have access to appropriate facilities, e-Portfolio, and academic contact appropriate to your level of study;
- A personal tutor (for taught programmes) or a supervisory team (research programmes).

Please see the **Statement of Academic Rights and Responsibilities**, which can be found on the **University website**:

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/media/wwwnclacuk/studentprogress/files/Academic%20RightsResponsibilities.pdf>

4. Academic Life: Responsibilities

We are committed to helping our students to become independent learners, researchers and critical thinkers. We strive to protect academic freedom and uphold academic integrity, and we expect all students to:

- Take responsibility for your own learning, time-management, and choices about your programme, study and assessment. This includes familiarising yourself with the requirements outlined in your course handbook, undertaking sufficient private study to meet the requirements of your programme, and managing your University email account.
- Engage positively with group work in a way that is respectful of others' rights to hold and express their own views.
- Treat others with dignity and respect. This includes taking appropriate actions to prevent bullying, harassment and intimidation.
- Respect other people's rights to freedom of speech and freedom of academic thought. This includes their rights to hold and express their own opinions, even while engaging in academic debate involving lawful viewpoints not aligned with your own, or which may cause offence.
- Maintain high standards of academic integrity and honesty and familiarise yourself with the [guidance on good academic practice](#), and the [Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes](#).
- Seek help and advice promptly where academic problems arise.

Please see the **Statement of Academic Rights and Responsibilities**, which can be found on the **University website**:

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/media/wwwnclacuk/studentprogress/files/Academic%20RightsResponsibilities.pdf>

5. Safety and Wellbeing

The health, safety and wellbeing of those within our University community is paramount to us. You can expect the University and Students' Union to take all reasonable measures to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all members of the University community.

All members of the University community are expected to:

- Take reasonable care of your own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by your actions;
- Take responsibility to seek and engage with health and wellbeing support offered by the University when needed;
- Promptly report all accidents and wellbeing concerns to the Safety Office (safety-office@ncl.ac.uk) and Student Health and Wellbeing Service, respectively;
- Provide up to date contact details to the University, including details of who we should contact in an emergency.

Safety and Wellbeing (continued...)

We recognise that there may be times when you feel you need some additional support while studying at Newcastle. The following sources of support are available to you:

- **Your personal tutor/senior tutor**
- **Postgraduate Support**
Telephone: 0800 030 5182
- **The University's Student Health and Wellbeing Service**
Including counselling, disability support, financial advice and wellbeing support:
<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/wellbeing/supportservices/>
- **Student Advice Centre at the Student Union**
The Student Advice Centre offers a portfolio of helpful resources, as well as an appointment-based service where you can chat with one of the trained advisors
<https://www.nusu.co.uk/support/sac/>

6. Sustainability on Campus

We are committed to providing a vibrant, clean and smoke-free environment for our entire University community, and you can expect the University to:

- Be committed to sustainability and environmental protection in all of our activities;
- Meet or exceed environmental regulatory requirements;
- Support our colleagues and students to minimise their own negative environmental impact and improve sustainability.

Appendix: Student Behavioural Code of Conduct

This section sets out the standards of personal conduct the University expects of you, in order to ensure a fair, supportive and inclusive environment for all members of the University community. This should be read in conjunction with the Student Charter.

The University's central activities of teaching, learning and research can only be possible when all members of the University community are able to demonstrate mutual trust and a respect for academic freedom, in a way which also protects inclusion and is non-discriminatory.

The University expects students to conduct themselves in a reasonable and appropriate manner at all times, both on and off campus. This includes:

- Behaving responsibly and in a way that fosters mutual respect and understanding between all members of the University community;
- Being considerate to neighbours, especially in relation to noise levels and rubbish;
- Complying with all reasonable requests from University colleagues;
- Acting within the law.

The University will ensure that you are provided with information during your induction programme to support you to look after your own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by your actions.

The above values are essential to the functioning of an academic community and the University will take appropriate action under the relevant Disciplinary Procedure where there has been reported breach of its policies relating to student conduct.

Misconduct includes, for example:

- Failure to respect the rights of others;
- Acts of dishonesty, including theft, deceit or deception;
- Antisocial behaviour, whether on University premises or elsewhere;
- Disruption or interference with University activities whether on University premises or elsewhere, including the unauthorised occupation of University premises;
- Damage, whether reckless or intentional, to University property or property of members of the University community;
- Harassment, bullying or victimisation of any student, University colleague or visitor to the University;
- Any sexual harassment or sexual violence. This includes, but is not limited to: non-consensual sexual activity; sexual assault; sexual harassment; stalking;
- Any hate-related incident, including the discrimination, harassment or intimidation of any member of the University community because of their actual or perceived protected characteristic, as defined by the Equality Act 2010;
- Initiation events, or any event or activity which involves improper coercion or manipulation of students to their physical or mental detriment, for example when

forcing or pressurising others to take part in demeaning activities or excessive consumption of alcohol or other substances;

- Disorderly or threatening behaviour or abusive language, whether on University premises or elsewhere;
- Any unlawful conduct.

The University is committed to protecting the rights of our students to free speech and peaceful protest. However, protest which intentionally disrupts the University's ability to carry out its day to day activities, disrupts the experience of, or harasses others, or poses health and safety risks to any member of the University community is not permitted and will be investigated under the Student Disciplinary Procedures.

Freedom of speech

Newcastle University Code of Practice for Freedom of Speech sets out the procedures to be followed by staff and students in connection with the organisation of meetings and events, along with the conduct required during these meetings and events.

Nothing in this Student Charter should affect free speech. In case of any conflict, the Code of Practice for Freedom of Speech will take precedence.

Further information and related documents

University Regulations and student policies and procedures, including the Student Disciplinary Procedure and Student Complaints and Resolution Procedure, can be found on the Student Progress Service website: <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/student-progress/policies/>

Compulsory training modules, including those relating to the health and safety of you and others who may be affected by your actions, can be found on the University's online learning platform, Canvas: <https://canvas.ncl.ac.uk/login/>

Policies for University employees, including the Colleague Disciplinary Policy and the Personal Relationships at Work Policy can be found on the People Services website: <https://newcastle.sharepoint.com/hub/people-services/Pages/Policies%20and%20Procedures/Policies-Procedures-and-Guidance.aspx>

The University has Terms and Conditions which support a positive environment for learning and academic achievement:

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival/regulations/#termsandconditions>

If you have experienced the effects of misconduct from another student, Newcastle University's Student Health and Wellbeing Services can provide you with support to explore the impact this has had on you and how you can be empowered to seek redress.

Tel: 0191 208 3333

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/students/wellbeing/support/>

If you are concerned about your own behaviour, or you believe that you or another student may be at risk, you can contact The University's Wellbeing Consultancy Team, who will help to take any and all necessary safeguarding steps

Tel: 0191 208 3333