

EXTERNAL SPEAKERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

1. This Code of Conduct is provided to an external speaker in advance of an event. The external speaker should be asked to confirm that they have read and understood the requirements of the Code of Conduct in advance of the event. The Students' Union has its own Code of Conduct for External Speakers.

Introduction

2. This Code of conduct exists to ensure that all speakers taking part in a Leeds Beckett University branded, hosted or run event or activity, whether on University premises in Leeds or elsewhere, act in accordance with its requirements regarding freedom of speech.

Context

3. Universities operate within in a complex regulatory and legal framework. It is therefore important that all visiting speakers understand the context that governs speaking at a Leeds Beckett University event.
4. The University has an obligation to protect freedom of speech and is committed to encouraging the expression and exchange of views – including on difficult and controversial issues. However, freedom of speech is not an absolute right and must be balanced with other legal obligations. The University therefore will seek to ensure that any visiting speaker does not break the law or breach the lawful rights of others.
5. The University has a duty to protect staff, students and visitors from hate crimes, harassment, defamation, breach of human rights, unfair treatment, breach of the peace and terrorist ideology whilst they are at a University branded event. In permitting events to be held on its premises, the University must also discharge responsibilities relating to health and safety, public meetings and public order.

Conduct

6. The University expects visiting speakers to act in accordance with the law and not to breach the lawful rights of others.
7. Set out below are examples of the University's expectations: this list is not exhaustive.

Speakers must NOT:

- (a) incite or spread hatred, intolerance, violence or call for the breaking of the law;
- (b) discriminate against, harass or insult any person or group on the basis of their faith, race, nationality, sex, age, religious beliefs or sexual orientation;
- (c) encourage, glorify or promote any acts of terrorism, including any individual, groups or organisations that support such actions;
- (d) seek to raise or collect funds for any external organisation or cause without express permission of the University.

Speakers must:

- (e) Allow and encourage challenge and debate on opinions and ideas put forward;
 - (f) Comply with the University's Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech;
 - (g) Comply with the University's Equality and Diversity Policy;
 - (h) Abide by the University Health and Safety Policy.
8. The University reserves the right to refuse or halt an event at any time if it reasonably believes that it cannot guarantee the safety of those present or if it reasonably believes that to allow the event to continue or to go ahead would cause a breach of the law.

*Revised November 2015 – Approved by Academic Board and Board of Governors
Latest revision: January 2020 – for approval by Academic Board and Board of Governors in Feb/March 2020*