

# Aston Student Code of Conduct

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AU-RSC-22-5458-A

2023-24

**Context**

Aston University sees itself as a tolerant and supportive academic community that has a strong commitment to global citizenship and its diverse student body. Your studies here at Aston, whether as an undergraduate, postgraduate or research student are our priority and we aim to provide a safe and welcoming campus for all. In creating this environment Aston recognises that we all have our own personal responsibility to play our part. We set out the below the Aston University Code of Conduct that sets out the boundaries for the behaviours that we expect and do not expect. There is reference to our [Regulations on Student Discipline](#) and an indication of what penalties may be applied should a breach of regulation occur.

The information extracted below outlines the framework of the Regulations on Discipline and should be read in conjunction with the [Regulations on Student Discipline](#).

The examples of unacceptable behaviour are not exhaustive; it should also be noted that students accused of breaching Regulations have the ability to present their own case in defence and/or mitigation. The examples of penalty/sanction are likewise not exhaustive. It will depend on the seriousness of the case, the context in which it happened and any mitigation provided.

It should further be noted that the tariff of penalties escalates for subsequent breaches of this Code. Students who are concerned that they might be in breach of this Code of Conduct or who are currently the subject of a disciplinary case are strongly advised to seek support from Aston Students' Union Advice & Representation Centre (ARC).

A student may be deemed in breach of discipline who:	Examples of unacceptable behaviour	Examples of penalty/sanction
a) behaves in a violent, riotous, disorderly, grossly offensive or inappropriate way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Punching</li> <li>• Kicking</li> <li>• Slapping</li> <li>• Pulling hair</li> <li>• Biting</li> <li>• Urinating in a public place</li> </ul>	Expulsion Suspension/exclusion Restrictions/conditions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual intercourse or engaging in a sexual act without consent</li> <li>• Attempting to engage in sexual intercourse or engaging in a sexual act without consent</li> <li>• Sharing private sexual materials of another person without consent</li> <li>• Kissing without consent</li> <li>• Touching inappropriately through clothes without consent</li> <li>• Inappropriately showing sexual organs to another person by any means including photographs/social media</li> </ul>	Expulsion Suspension/exclusion Restrictions/conditions Formal Warning

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repeatedly following another person without good reason</li> <li>• Making unwanted remarks of a sexual nature by any means including social media</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threats to hurt another person</li> <li>• Abusive comments relating to an individual's sex, sexual orientation, religion or belief or lack of belief, race, pregnancy/maternity, marriage/civil partnership, gender reassignment, disability or age,</li> <li>• Acting in an intimidating and hostile manner</li> </ul>	Expulsion Suspension/exclusion Restrictions/conditions Formal Warning
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pushing</li> <li>• Shoving</li> </ul>	Expulsion Suspension/exclusion Restrictions/conditions Formal Warning
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of inappropriate language</li> <li>• Repeatedly contacting another person by any means (phone, email, text or on social media) against the wishes of the other person</li> </ul>	Expulsion Suspension/exclusion Restrictions/conditions Formal Warning
b) attempts to gain unfair advantage in any formal assessment, for example, through plagiarism, collusion, or cheating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plagiarism</li> <li>• Collusion</li> <li>• Helping someone else collude</li> <li>• Cheating</li> <li>• Unauthorised or inappropriate use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to create a piece of work</li> </ul>	Mark for piece of work set to zero Mark for module set to zero Expulsion
c) Commissioning a piece of academic work to pass off as your own (either for money or not)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unauthorised or inappropriate use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to create a piece of work</li> </ul>	Expulsion
d) Selling your academic work to be used by someone else		Expulsion

<p>e) disrupts or improperly interferes with the academic, administrative, social or other activities of the University or with the functions, duties or activities of any student, member of staff or visitor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acts/omissions/statements that are dishonest</li> <li>• Disruption of the activities of the University (including academic, administrative, sporting and social) on University premises or elsewhere</li> <li>• Improper interference with the activities of the University (including academic, administrative, sporting and social) on University premises or elsewhere</li> <li>• Improper interference with the functions, duties or activities of any student or employee of the University or any authorised visitor to the University</li> </ul>	<p>Expulsion Suspension/exclusion Restrictions/conditions Formal Warning</p>
<p>f) contravenes the University's policy on the prevention of harassment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of inappropriate language</li> <li>• Repeatedly contacting another person by any means (phone, email, text or on social media) against the wishes of the other person.</li> <li>• Abusive comments relating to an individual's sex, sexual orientation, religion or belief or lack of belief, race, pregnancy/maternity, marriage/civil partnership, gender reassignment, disability or age,</li> <li>• Acting in an intimidating and hostile manner</li> </ul>	<p>Expulsion Suspension/exclusion Restrictions/conditions Formal Warning</p>

<p>g) assaults another person</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Punching</li> <li>• Kicking</li> <li>• Slapping</li> <li>• Pulling hair</li> <li>• Biting</li> </ul>	<p>Expulsion Suspension/exclusion Restrictions/conditions Formal Warning</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual intercourse or engaging in a sexual act without consent</li> <li>• Attempting to engage in sexual intercourse or engaging in a sexual act without consent</li> <li>• Sharing private sexual materials of another person without consent</li> <li>• Kissing without consent</li> <li>• Touching inappropriately through clothes without consent</li> </ul>	<p>Expulsion Suspension/exclusion Restrictions/conditions Formal Warning</p>
<p>h) prevents the University from carrying out its due responsibilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acts/omissions/statements that are dishonest</li> <li>• Disruption of the activities of the University (including academic, administrative, sporting and social) on University premises or elsewhere</li> <li>• Improper interference with the activities of the University (including academic, administrative, sporting and social) on University premises or elsewhere</li> <li>• Improper interference with the functions, duties or activities or any student or employee of the University or any authorised visitor to the University</li> </ul>	<p>Expulsion Suspension/exclusion Restrictions/conditions Formal Warning</p>

<p>i) wilfully or negligently defaces, injures or harms the property of the University or of an institution attended as part of a University course</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Causing significant damage to University property or the property of students or employees of the University or visitors to the University</li> </ul>	<p>Expulsion Suspension/exclusion Restrictions/conditions Requirement to make good the damage at their own expense Formal Warning</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Causing minor damage to University property or to the property of students or employees of the University or visitors to the University</li> </ul>	<p>Suspension/exclusion Restrictions/conditions Requirement to make good the damage at their own expense Formal Warning</p>
<p>j) refuses to make good damage done in the University or elsewhere</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Causing significant damage to University property or the property of students or employees of the University or visitors to the University</li> <li>• Causing minor damage to University property or to the property of students or employees of the University or visitors to the University</li> </ul>	<p>Expulsion Suspension/exclusion Restrictions/conditions</p>
<p>k) falsifies or misuses University records, including falsification of evidence of mitigation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dishonestly alters or amends documents.</li> <li>• Dishonestly creates false information purporting to be from the University</li> </ul>	<p>Expulsion Suspension/exclusion</p>
<p>l) disregards any Ordinance, Regulation, or Code of Practice governing the conduct or obligations of students in any part of the University</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wilfully or recklessly breaching the University Regulations</li> </ul>	<p>Expulsion Suspension/exclusion Restrictions/conditions Formal Warning</p>
<p>m) is convicted of an offence or accepts a police caution.</p>		<p>Expulsion Suspension/exclusion Restrictions/conditions Formal Warning</p>

<p>n) engages in conduct prejudicial to the good order, safety, operation and discipline of the University, its students, staff and visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acts/omissions/statements that are dishonest</li> <li>• Disruption of the activities of the University (including academic, administrative, sporting and social) on University premises or elsewhere</li> <li>• Improper interference with the activities of the University (including academic, administrative, sporting and social) on University premises or elsewhere</li> <li>• Improper interference with the functions, duties or activities or any student or employee of the University or any authorised visitor to the University</li> </ul>	<p>Expulsion Suspension/exclusion Restrictions/conditions Formal Warning</p>
<p>o) commits fraud including identity and/or student finance fraud</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acts/omissions/statements that are dishonest</li> <li>• Poses as another student/member of staff.</li> <li>• Alters or amends documents dishonestly.</li> <li>• Creates false information purporting to be from the University</li> </ul>	<p>Expulsion Suspension/exclusion Restrictions/conditions Formal Warning</p>
<p>p) misuses, or uses in an unauthorised way, the University’s intellectual property (including the sale of essays or other work produced by Aston University students as part of their programme of study)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poses as another student/member of staff.</li> <li>• Alters or amends documents dishonestly.</li> <li>• Creates false information purporting to be from the University</li> </ul>	<p>Expulsion Suspension/exclusion Restrictions/conditions Formal Warning</p>
<p>q) behaves in such a way as to bring the University into disrepute</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trolling on social media</li> <li>• Posting offensive messages online</li> <li>• Behaving in a manner that damages the reputation of the University, its students and its staff</li> </ul>	<p>Expulsion Suspension/exclusion Restrictions/conditions Formal Warning</p>
<p>r) is enrolled on the basis of a fraudulent application</p>		<p>Expulsion</p>

<p>s) is found in possession or of a controlled drug. 'Controlled drug' means any substance or product classified within the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 as being an illegal substance. For example, heroin, cannabis, cocaine.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A controlled drug is found in their possession or at a location that is their responsibility e.g. their university accommodation</li> </ul>	<p>Police may be informed Expulsion Suspension/exclusion Restrictions/conditions Fine Formal Warning</p>
<p>t) is believed to be dealing/selling/procuring a controlled drug. 'Controlled drug' means any substance or product classified within the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 as being an illegal substance. For example, heroin, cannabis, cocaine.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A substantial amount of a controlled drug is found in their possession or at a location that is their responsibility e.g. their university accommodation</li> <li>• Corresponding evidence is found that would indicate transactions were taking place.</li> </ul>	<p>Police will be informed Expulsion Suspension/exclusion</p>

Ref No	Version	Responsible Officer	Approved by	Approval Date	Effective Date
AU-RSC-18-1874	A	Adam Hewitt	ULTC	Jun 2019	Sep 2019
AU-RSC-19-2828	A	Adam Hewitt	ULTC	Jun 2020	Sep 2020
AU-RSC-20-3978	A	Adam Hewitt	ULTC	Jun 2021	Sep 2021
AU-RSC-22-5458	A	Adam Hewitt	ULTC	Jun 2023	Aug 2023