

# **Student Disciplinary Policy and Procedures**

## **2023-24**

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## Committee Approval

Committee	Committee Action	Date
QAEC	Recommend approval	19 July 2023
Academic Committee	Approved	26 July 2023
<b>Date in force</b>		<b>1 August 2023</b>

This Student Disciplinary Policy and Procedures will be reviewed annually by our Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee (QAEC). Any amendments will be subject to approval by the Academic Committee.

## A. Student Disciplinary Policy

### A.1 Introduction

This Policy sets out the scope, authorities and responsibilities in relation to disciplinary action taken against students.

Academic misconduct is dealt with in accordance with the policies and procedures of our university partner and not this policy and procedures.

The policy is implemented by means of the accompanying Student Disciplinary Procedures (see Section B below).

There are four main elements to the disciplinary procedures. Firstly, the allegation is investigated. If there is no case to answer, the case is dismissed. If there is a case to answer, the Deputy Chief Operating Officer will decide on the penalty or refer the case to a Student Disciplinary Panel. The Student Disciplinary Panel will consider the case and decide upon the penalty. The Panel's decision can be appealed against on the grounds detailed in this document.

### A.2 Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this Policy is to enable Bloomsbury Institute to fulfil its obligations relating to the care of and responsibility for its members, and to protect its reputation.

Under this policy, Bloomsbury Institute has the power to discipline students and to suspend or expel any student for good cause.

This policy and procedures also cover any misconduct relating to harassment in general as well as sexual harassment.

The Student Disciplinary Policy and Procedures are designed to act as a deterrent by articulating a penalty for unacceptable behaviour, and to support improvement by discussion and positive action where behaviour falls short of required standards.

### A.3 Authority and responsibilities

The Deputy Chief Operating Officer is responsible for the maintenance of student discipline and, within the rules and procedures provided for within this policy, for the suspension and expulsion of students on disciplinary grounds or other urgent cause. Where the allegation constitutes criminal behaviour, the Principal and Chief Executive Officer, or Deputy Chief Operating Officer should inform the police. The Deputy Chief Operating Officer may delegate responsibilities in relation to student discipline from time to time to appropriate members of staff. (Further information addressing responsibilities of staff and students can be found in Part B, Section 2 of the Procedures).

This policy and procedures define the responsibilities of staff authorised to take action in respect of disciplinary offences and the role of those authorised to investigate disciplinary allegations on behalf of Bloomsbury Institute.

In exceptional cases where it is considered urgent and/or critical, the Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Principal and Chief Executive Officer or nominees may decide to accelerate the proceedings.

### A.4 General principles

Below are the principles which influence Bloomsbury Institute's approach towards disciplinary matters:

- **Accessibility**; the policy and procedures are visible, obvious and easy to navigate

- **Clarity**; there is a clear indication of unacceptable behaviour and how it may be dealt with
- **Impartiality**; the decision-making process is independent of any influencing factors
- **Consistency and fairness**; the decision-making is consistently in line with the procedures and is applied fairly across all cases, taking into account reasonable adjustments where necessary
- **Confidentiality**; outcomes and proceedings are confidential and are only shared with individuals where required, in the interest of the security of staff and students or where it might help in behavioural development
- **Timeliness**; all cases are concluded as quickly as possible and never exceeding the allowed timeframes unless necessary and authorised as per the procedures

All stages of the process will accord with Bloomsbury Institute's [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy](#).<sup>1</sup>

Students will be given notice of allegations made about their behaviour and reasonable time (a minimum of 5 working days) to prepare a defence.

All parties will receive the same information and copies of written evidence at all stages of the process. Written evidence may be anonymised if considered appropriate in order to protect the interests of individuals. If the facts stated identify individuals, then this will be considered before sharing the evidence.

Students have the right to be accompanied by a friend, relative or a member of the Student Guild not acting in a legal capacity at any hearing conducted by a Student Disciplinary Panel or a Student Disciplinary Appeals Panel or the meeting held with a student.

Students will receive an unbiased hearing.

Every decision in the process will be informed by the evidence submitted/available. There will be a proportionate outcome to any offence committed.

Students will be kept informed in writing of the progress of their case at all stages of the disciplinary proceedings. This applies to both parties.

The Deputy Chief Operating Officer or a designated member of staff will keep confidential and secure records of all hearings held by Student Disciplinary Panels and Student Disciplinary Appeals Panels.

## A.5 Definition of a disciplinary offence

In its general sense, any behaviour which interferes with the functioning or activities of Bloomsbury Institute and its partners (including Birkbeck College) or of those who work or study at Bloomsbury Institute, or action which otherwise damages Bloomsbury Institute or its reputation constitutes a disciplinary offence.

Examples of conduct likely to constitute a disciplinary offence are outlined in Appendix 1 to this policy.

## A.6 Scope of the policy

This Policy applies to all students enrolled at Bloomsbury Institute.

Students who are engaged in internships may be subject to the disciplinary processes of both Bloomsbury Institute and the entity where they are working as an intern.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bil.ac.uk/qem/policies/>

All allegations of academic misconduct (i.e. cheating) are dealt with in accordance with the policies and procedures of our university partner and not this Policy and Procedures. These are covered in the relevant awarding body's procedures.

Exceptionally, this Policy may be invoked to investigate allegations of academic misconduct relating to former students, for example where evidence of malpractice that has come to light after the award has been given.

## **A.7 Suspension**

A student may be suspended from attendance at Bloomsbury Institute, and/or prohibited from engaging with the VLE or other resources, for alleged misconduct or other good or urgent cause for a limited period of time. Suspension could be of two types, one is where they are not allowed to attend but are allowed to engage with the VLE and the other is where they are not allowed to attend and use resources. This will depend on the extent and nature of the allegation and the element of proportionality.

Suspension is not a penalty but a precautionary measure which Bloomsbury Institute may use in order to exercise its duty of care or whilst necessary before any investigation takes place.

The decision to suspend a student may only be taken by the Principal and Chief Executive Officer or the Deputy Chief Operating Officer or their nominee. The student will be notified by letter of the reasons for the suspension, the terms of the suspension and the right of appeal. The period of suspension cannot exceed three weeks unless an extension has been agreed by the Principal and Chief Executive Officer or Deputy Chief Operating Officer or their nominee. The length of the extension will be determined having regard to the circumstances of the case. The student will be advised in writing if an extension is agreed and informed of the length of the extension.

A student who wishes to appeal against a suspension should write to the Principal and Chief Executive Officer or Deputy Chief Operating Officer or their nominee, depending upon who made the original decision of suspension. The appeal will be considered by the Principal and Chief Executive Officer, the Deputy Chief Operating Officer or their nominee, provided they have not previously been involved in the case. The student will be issued with a response within five working days of receipt of the request to appeal.

## **A.8 Process**

The student disciplinary process is described in the Student Disciplinary Procedures (see Section B).

## **A.9 Burden and standard of proof**

It is the responsibility of Bloomsbury Institute to prove the allegation. The standard of proof required is that of the balance of probability i.e. it should be more likely than not that the student has committed the misconduct alleged. In cases of allegations which are deemed to be criminal in nature, the rule of law will be followed as well as the penalties below.

### **A.9.1 Penalties for misconduct**

When determining the penalty to be applied, consideration should be given to:

- The seriousness of the misconduct
- The student's previous disciplinary record
- The conduct of the student subsequent to the act of misconduct
- Any mitigating factors

Where allegations of misconduct are upheld, the following penalties are available:

- An initial written warning
- A final written warning
- Expulsion from Bloomsbury Institute

Other penalties in addition to those listed above may be imposed. These include, but are not limited to:

- The withdrawal of access to Bloomsbury Institute's facilities and services and those provided by Bloomsbury Institute's partners and third parties
- Compensation (in cases of vandalism, damage by fire etc.)

## **A.10 Appeals**

A student may appeal in writing against the outcome or the penalty imposed by the Deputy Chief Operating Officer or a Student Disciplinary Panel. The arrangements for considering appeals are outlined in the Student Disciplinary Procedures in Section B below.

Only the following constitute grounds for appeal:

- That there has been a material procedural irregularity which has demonstrably affected the outcome
- That there is new evidence which would demonstrably have affected the outcome and could not reasonably have been made available to the Student Disciplinary Panel
- That the decision is perverse given the facts of the case
- That the outcome is too severe bearing in mind the facts of the case

Students admitting to allegation(s) of misconduct have the right to appeal on grounds of the outcome being too severe bearing in mind the facts of the case. They cannot appeal on any other elements or grounds.

Where grounds for appeal have been established, the appeal will be considered by a Student Disciplinary Appeals Panel. No member of the Panel will have had any prior involvement or knowledge of the case. The panel is established under the terms identified in Section C4.

## **B. Student Disciplinary Procedures**

### **B.1 Scope**

The Student Disciplinary Procedures describe how the Student Disciplinary Policy is applied. They set out the:

- Responsibilities of staff and students
- Procedures for investigating allegations of disciplinary offences
- Purpose, terms of reference, membership and conduct of meetings of Student Disciplinary Panels. (These meetings are called hearings.)
- Evidence required in relation to mitigating circumstances and how Panels should take account of mitigating circumstances
- Matters to be taken into account when determining the penalty for a student disciplinary offence
- Appeals process

### **B.2 Responsibilities of staff and students**

All members of staff have a responsibility to report a suspected disciplinary offence by a student. All students are encouraged to raise concerns with a member of the academic team, the Centre for Student Engagement, Wellbeing and Success (SEWS), Registry or the Student Staff Liaison Manager (SSLM) where they might feel that an offence might have taken place.

Appendix 1 lists examples of misconduct which are deemed to be a student disciplinary offence. Any behaviour which is thought to be a disciplinary offence should be reported as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of the member of staff or students bringing the allegation to provide supporting evidence.

The Deputy Chief Operating Officer is responsible for nominating members of staff to act as Investigating Officers in matters related to student discipline. The Investigating Officer assigned to a case must be independent of the student and the course in question.

The responsibilities of the Investigating Officer are to:

- Be the first point of contact regarding student disciplinary allegations
- Inform the student of the allegation and to advise him/her about the Student Disciplinary Policy and Procedures
- Ensure that allegations are investigated properly and that full records are kept of the investigation and to determine whether there is a *prima facie* case to be heard
- Correspond with students, staff and the Registry regarding the progress of investigations into student disciplinary allegations
- Instigate hearings by Student Disciplinary Panels when necessary and to present details of allegations to these Panels
- Make appropriate penalty recommendations to the Deputy Chief Operating Officer

It is the responsibility of the Deputy Chief Operating Officer to:



- Determine, after consideration of a recommendation from an Investigating Officer, the penalty to be applied
- Where the Deputy Chief Operating Officer declines to accept the recommendation of an Investigating Officer he/she may impose an alternative penalty or determine that the case is so serious as to require referral to a Student Disciplinary Panel

It is the responsibility of the Chair of a Student Disciplinary Panel to ensure that:

- The Panel hearing is conducted in accordance with the expectations set out in the Student Disciplinary Policy and Procedures
- Students are treated fairly
- The reliability, strength and relevance of the evidence are taken into account by the Panel when reaching a decision

The responsibilities of members of Student Disciplinary Panels are to:

- Re-read Bloomsbury Institute's Unconscious Bias Guidance Notes prior to any Panel meeting
- Declare any personal interests in the matter being investigated
- Adopt an unbiased approach when questioning staff, students and witnesses
- Ensure they are familiar with the papers relating to the allegation prior to the hearing
- Ensure that all matters relating to the allegation are taken into account in an impartial manner

For Student Disciplinary Panels, a member of the Quality team will be appointed by the Deputy Chief Operating Officer to act as Secretary to the Panel. The Secretary is not a member of the Panel but will:

- Provide the Panel with advice about the Student Disciplinary Policy and Procedures
- Be responsible for making arrangements for meetings of the Panel, which shall include issuing the agenda and supporting paperwork to all attendees
- Produce a written record of the hearing which will include details of the outcome and, where the allegation is upheld, details of any penalty imposed
- Inform the student and relevant staff of the outcome and provide them with a copy of the record of the hearing

The Deputy Chief Operating Officer or nominee will maintain confidential records of meetings of all Student Disciplinary Panels. The Registry will provide *ad hoc* reports to the Academic Committee and provide support and guidance to Bloomsbury Institute staff in matters related to the Student Disciplinary Policy and Procedures.

### **B.3 Investigating an allegation of misconduct**

Within **10 working days** of receipt of the allegation, the Investigating Officer will write to the student to inform him/her of the allegation and that a disciplinary investigation has been instigated.

The evidence collected during a disciplinary investigation can come from a variety of sources and may include written and oral evidence.

In order to determine the facts of the matter, the Investigating Officer may need to meet with the student and/or the party (student or staff member) who raised the allegation. If this is the case the student will

be advised in writing of the need for a preliminary meeting and given at least **5 working days'** notice of that meeting.

Any preliminary meeting undertaken as part of a disciplinary investigation is solely for the purpose of establishing whether there is a *prima facie* case to answer.

Notes of preliminary meetings should be taken by the Investigating Officer, agreed by the participants and kept by the Investigating Officer.

Disciplinary investigations and, if required, preliminary meetings must be concluded **within 10 working days** from informing the student of the allegation.

Action	Timescale
Notification of receipt of allegation and the start of the investigation	Within 10 working days of receipt of the allegation
Notice of preliminary meeting	Minimum of 5 working days
Conclusion of preliminary meetings and disciplinary investigation	Within 10 working days from informing the student of the allegation

The student should be advised that if it is subsequently decided there is a case to answer, details of the preliminary meeting may be presented to a Student Disciplinary Panel convened to consider the allegation as explained in Section B.4.2 below.

### B.3.1 Behaviour which may be a criminal offence

In circumstances where the allegation may constitute a criminal offence the matter should be reported immediately to the Principal and Chief Executive Officer, and the Deputy Chief Operating Officer. The Principal and Chief Executive Officer, or Deputy Chief Operating Officer should inform the police. The Principal and Chief Executive Officer or Deputy Chief Operating Officer will decide whether the Student Disciplinary Procedures should continue or be suspended pending the outcome of any police investigation. Generally, it is advisable for Bloomsbury Institute to suspend its disciplinary process until any legal proceedings have been completed. If necessary, a student may be suspended pending the outcome of a police investigation and any court procedure.

Where a student has already been sentenced by a court in respect of the same matter, the Court's penalty will be taken into account by the Student Disciplinary Panel.

## B.4 The outcome of the investigation

Following the disciplinary investigation, the Investigating Officer will consider all the evidence and decide whether there is a *prima facie* case to answer. Within **10 working days** of the completion of the investigation, the Investigating Officer will inform the student against whom an allegation has been made and the party (student or staff member) who raised the allegation of the outcome and the reasons for the decision.

### B.4.1 The outcome of the investigation: no case to answer

If it is considered that there is no case to answer, the matter will be closed. The Investigating Officer may decide that the student should be provided with advice about his/her future conduct. If this is the case, the Investigating Officer will meet the student and provide him/her with a written counselling note which will be forwarded to Registry for retention on the student's file. A record will be kept for a period specified in our Records Management Policy<sup>2</sup> for any investigations regardless of the outcome of investigation.

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<sup>2</sup> See [www.bil.ac.uk/qem/policies/](http://www.bil.ac.uk/qem/policies/)

## B.4.2 The outcome of the investigation: case to answer

Where it is considered that there is a *prima facie* case to answer, the Investigating Officer will seek the advice of the Deputy Chief Operating Officer to determine whether the allegation should be considered by the Investigating Officer or referred to a Student Disciplinary Panel (see section B.5). This decision will be based upon the findings of the investigation, the severity of the alleged offence and any previously proven misconduct by the student. The student will be advised of the Investigating Officer's decision and given written details of the allegation and copies of the evidence obtained during the investigation. Where required these will be anonymised. The Investigating Officer will inform the Deputy Chief Operating Officer of the outcome of the investigation.

If the allegation is not deemed to require referral to a Student Disciplinary Panel, the student will be asked to consider the evidence supplied and be given the option of contesting the allegation or admitting the offence. The student should be asked to confirm his/her decision in writing within **10 working days** of the date of the letter advising of the outcome of the investigation. Should a student fail to respond within this timescale, it will be assumed that they are not contesting the allegation.

Where a student admits an allegation, the Investigating Officer will recommend to the Deputy Chief Operating Officer the penalty to be applied.

If the student wishes to contest the allegation or the nature of the allegation as such that it requires consideration by a Panel, the case will be considered by the Student Disciplinary Panel.

Action	Timescale
Notification of the outcome of investigation to the student concerned and the party who raised the allegation	Within 10 working days of the completion of the investigation
Student's response to notification of the outcome of investigation contesting or admitting the offence	Within 10 working days from informing the student of the outcome of the investigation

## B.5 Student Disciplinary Panels

Student Disciplinary Panels are established to consider allegations of general misconduct and to establish the facts and circumstances of a case before determining the outcome and, where appropriate, the penalty.

### B.5.1 Terms of Reference and membership

The Terms of Reference and membership of Student Disciplinary Panels and Student Disciplinary Appeals Panels are outlined in Section C.4 below.

### B.5.2 The Student Disciplinary Panel hearing

The student must be given at least **10 working days'** notice of the proposed date for the Student Disciplinary Panel hearing. It is desirable that the student is present throughout the hearing. This is so that he/she can hear all of the evidence and provide a defence. Exceptionally, a hearing may proceed without the student if it is considered that he/she has sought to delay the hearing without good cause.

The student will have the right to be accompanied by a representative. The representative may be a friend or relative who is not acting in a legal capacity. The role of this person is to support and advise the student. Normally, the representative may not speak on behalf of the student, but can ask for an adjournment. The only circumstances in which a representative may speak on behalf of the student, would be where we consider the student to be unable to represent themselves. However, it is expected that the student will speak for him/herself during the hearing.

If, during the hearing, the Panel feels that further information is required to reach a decision, the hearing may be adjourned. Depending upon the nature of the information and its accessibility, the length of adjournment will be between a few minutes to a maximum of **2 working days**. The Investigating Officer will be responsible for collecting any additional information that is required and will provide copies to

the Chair and student. The Chair will decide whether it is necessary to reconvene the hearing to consider any new information.

All parties will be supplied with all the papers relevant to the hearing. These will be anonymised where required and will include:

- The date, time and location of the meeting
- Details of the precise nature of the allegations to be examined
- All documentary information which will be made available to the panel (including the Investigator's Report)
- A list of the panel members
- An outline of the process of the meeting
- Notification that the student is entitled to be accompanied by a friend or relative ( as per Section A.4 of this document)

Action	Timescale
Notification of the proposed date for the Student Disciplinary Panel hearing	Minimum of 10 working days prior to the proposed meeting date
Maximum length of adjournment	2 working days
The outcome of the hearing	Within 5 working days of the hearing*

\* an extension can be sought from the Deputy Chief Operating Officer

### B.5.3 The Outcome of the hearing

If it is concluded that the student is guilty of the alleged offence, the Panel must recommend the penalty that should be imposed after taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

If the Panel determines that the student is not guilty of the alleged offence, the student will be advised and no further action will be taken.

If the panel determines that the student is not guilty, then the Panel will advise the relevant members of staff to ensure any restorative measures are taken to ensure that the student is not disadvantaged in any form, such as ensuring provision of catch-up classes and/or extended submission deadlines.

The Panel must conclude its decision within **5 working days** of the hearing. If it cannot conclude the matter, then it must seek an extension from the Deputy Chief Operating Officer, and the student should be notified of the delay.

### B.5.4 Mitigating circumstances

Where mitigating circumstances are presented by the student, they must be supported by documentary evidence (e.g. medical reasons must be supported by a doctor's note).

The student must explain the extent of the problems he/she was experiencing and their impact in relation to the allegation. Mitigating circumstances may be considered to be more relevant where:

- The student had little control over the circumstances or was unable to improve the situation
- The circumstances were exceptional
- The circumstances are not supported or provided for by Bloomsbury Institute's procedures and/or support services

Where the mitigating circumstances could have been alleviated by Bloomsbury Institute's procedures and/or support services and the student did not take advantage of this, the student must explain why he/she did not do so.

Following the presentation of the mitigating circumstances, the Panel will decide whether the circumstances are sufficient to mitigate the disciplinary penalty and, if so, to what extent. If it is concluded that the student is guilty of the alleged offence, the Panel must take into account any mitigating circumstances prior to determining the penalty to be imposed.

## **B.6 Penalties**

Penalties must be proportionate and take into account the following:

- The seriousness of the misconduct
- An act that was premeditated or sustained over a period of time would normally be considered more serious than one that was committed on the spur of the moment or on a single occasion. Additionally, an act which had a significant adverse impact on a fellow student or member of staff would be considered more serious than one that had a negligible or small impact
- The student's previous disciplinary record
- Any repetition of a disciplinary offence should be regarded as a serious matter.
- The conduct of the student subsequent to the act of misconduct
- An act of misconduct followed by further inappropriate action, for example threatening behaviour, should be regarded as a very serious matter

Where a student contests an allegation of misconduct and is subsequently found guilty, the penalty imposed may be more severe than if the student had admitted the offence.

The penalties that may be applied to disciplinary offences are outlined in Section A.9.1 of the Policy. Where damage has been caused to property belonging to Bloomsbury Institute or partners, our staff or our students, consideration will be given to seeking recovery of the cost of repairs or replacement of the damaged article(s).

## **B.7 Notification of the decision of a Student Disciplinary Panel**

Within **10 working days** from the Panel's meeting the Secretary to the Student Disciplinary Panel will notify the student and the Investigating Officer of the Student Disciplinary Panel's decision and, in cases where the allegation has been upheld, of any penalties imposed. The notification will be in writing and will include advice to the student regarding the right of appeal.

## **B.8 Appeals**

A student may only appeal on the grounds outlined at Section A.10 of the Policy.

Appeals must be made in writing by the student and should be addressed to the Deputy Chief Operating Officer. Appeals received more than **10 working days** after the date of the outcome letter will not normally be considered.

The appeal letter must state clearly the grounds under which the student is appealing and at the same time submit any additional evidence which the student wishes to be taken into account.

The student's appeal and any additional evidence will be considered by the Deputy Chief Operating Officer who will make a decision about whether the appeal request meets the grounds outlined at Section A.10 of the Policy.

If it is felt that there are insufficient grounds for appeal, the Deputy Chief Operating Officer will inform the student of the decision in writing within 10 working days.

If it is felt that there are grounds for appeal, the Deputy Chief Operating Officer will arrange for a Student Disciplinary Appeals Panel to consider the appeal, giving the student at least **10 working days'** notice of the appeal hearing.

The members of the Appeals Panel will not have had any prior involvement with the case or the student. During the hearing the student will be provided with an opportunity to present his/her case.

The student will have the right to be accompanied by a representative. The representative may be a friend, relative or a member of the Student Guild who is not acting in a legal capacity. The role of this person is to support and advise the student. Where appropriate the representative may speak on behalf of the student. However, it is expected that the student will speak for him/herself during the hearing.

Within **10 working days** the Secretary to the Student Disciplinary Appeals Panel will notify the student and the Investigating Officer, in writing, of the outcome of the appeal and of any penalties imposed.

The outcome of the Student Disciplinary Appeals Panel forms the final stage of Bloomsbury Institute's Procedure and we will issue the student with a Completion of Procedures letter. The student then has the right to take their case to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA) <https://www.oiahe.org.uk/contact-us/>. It should be noted that we will fully comply with the judgement made by the OIA where the case relates to Bloomsbury Institute (cases of this type are under the OIA's remit). Students may take a claim to the OIA up to 12 months from the date of being issued with a Completion of Procedures letter from Bloomsbury Institute.

Action	Timescale
Appeal against the decision of the Student Disciplinary Panel	Within 10 working days of the date of the outcome letter
Student Disciplinary Appeals Panel hearing notice	Minimum of 10 working days prior to the proposed meeting date
Notification of the outcome of the Student Disciplinary Appeals Panel hearing	Within 10 working days of the hearing

## B.9 Related regulations, policies and procedures

- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Dignity and Respect Policy
- Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy

## B.10 Review of the Student Disciplinary Policy and Procedures

This Student Disciplinary Policy and Procedures will be reviewed annually by our Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee (QAEC). Any amendments will be subject to approval by the Academic Committee.

## **C. APPENDIX 1**

### **C.1 Examples of disciplinary offences**

The offences outlined below are classed as disciplinary offences. The offences are categorised into general misconduct and academic misconduct (i.e. cheating). The lists are not exhaustive and Bloomsbury Institute may determine that other behaviour constitutes misconduct for consideration in accordance with the Student Disciplinary Policy.

#### **C.1.1 General Misconduct**

The following examples of misconduct may also apply to Bloomsbury Institute students in relation to partners such as Birkbeck College and Bloomsbury Institute's Student Guild.

- Any conduct which constitutes a criminal offence
- Any form of violent, vindictive, indecent, disorderly or threatening behaviour or language, either written or spoken including any form of electronic communication
- Any form of discrimination, discriminatory language, action or behaviour, whether verbal, physical or written, that contravenes current, relevant legislation and Bloomsbury Institute policies and procedures e.g. its Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, Dignity and Respect Policy and Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy
- Undesignated possession of an offensive weapon on Bloomsbury Institute's premises
- Bullying or harassment of any type towards a student or a member of staff of Bloomsbury Institute or any visitor to the Institute
- Sexual harassment of any type towards a student or a member of staff of Bloomsbury Institute or any visitor to the Institute
- Fraud, deceit, deception or dishonesty in relation to Bloomsbury Institute or its staff, students or visitors
- Making a fraudulent claim for funds or the re-imbursement of expenses
- Failure to respect the rights of others to freedom of belief and speech
- Failure to comply with a reasonable instruction related to discipline issued with the Deputy Chief Operating Officer's authority
- Theft, misappropriation or misuse of Bloomsbury Institute property or the property of Bloomsbury Institute's staff and/or students
- Disruption or improper interference with the academic, administrative or other activities of the Institute or its partners where applicable
- Obstruction or improper interference with the functions, duties or activities of any student or member of the staff of Bloomsbury Institute or any visitor to the Institute
- Misuse or undesignated use of Bloomsbury Institute's premises
- Damage to Bloomsbury Institute's property or the property of Bloomsbury Institute's staff, students or visitors caused intentionally or recklessly
- Action likely to cause injury or impair safety on Bloomsbury Institute's premises
- Breach of the provisions of any Bloomsbury Institute code, policy, rule or regulation

- Making unsubstantiated allegations about a member of staff or a student
- Vexatious or malicious complaints

## **C.2 Academic Misconduct (Cheating)**

Academic Misconduct is dealt with in accordance with the policies and procedures of the university partner and **not** this policy and procedures. However, this policy or associated procedures may apply in the case of academic misconduct allegations in relation to former students.

### **C.2.1 Cheating in relation to examinations**

- Attempting to access confidential information before an examination, including attempting to get sight of the examination paper before it is published
- Taking or attempting to take unauthorised material, including blank paper, electronic devices and mobile phones, into an examination room
- Communicating or attempting to communicate in any way with another candidate or any other person (other than the invigilator) during an examination
- Copying, or trying to copy, the work of another student
- Allowing or assisting another student to copy
- Impersonation - taking an assessment on behalf of, or pretending to be, another student, or allowing another person to take an assessment on behalf of a student
- Attempting to remove script books, including blank script books, from an examination room

All the above may apply in the case of an online scenario.

This list is not exhaustive and cheating in examinations may take other forms.

### **C.2.2 Cheating in relation to other forms of assessed work**

- Plagiarism – i.e. the submission of an item of assessment which, all or in part, contains work produced by another person(s) in such a way that it could be assumed to be the student's own work
- Collusion – i.e. the improper collaboration in the production of a piece of work when that work is submitted as entirely the work of an individual. Except where written instructions state that work for assessment may be produced jointly and submitted as the work of more than one student, students must not collaborate with other students to produce a piece of work jointly, copy or share another student's work, lend their work to another student or allow another student to copy their work
- Falsification of data or artefacts i.e. the invention or changing of material to support an argument
- Duplication - the submission of a piece of work in whole or in part that has already been submitted for assessment elsewhere, including concurrent submission

This list is not exhaustive and cheating in assessed work may take other forms.



## **C.3 Student Disciplinary Panels**

### **C.3.1 Terms of Reference**

Student Disciplinary Panels have the power to:

- Consider allegations of misconduct
- Decide whether an offence has been committed
- Establish whether there are mitigating circumstances which can be taken into account when determining the penalty
- Determine and apply an appropriate penalty
- Make additional recommendations to the student regarding his/her future conduct
- Make recommendations regarding changes to Bloomsbury Institute's processes where improvements are deemed necessary

### **C.3.2 Membership**

The membership will be selected by the Deputy Chief Operating Officer and will comprise:

- A Programme/Course Leader, a Head of School, a Head of Division or a Head of Department who will Chair the hearing; and
- One member of staff
- A member of the Quality team will be in attendance as Secretary to the hearing

All members of the Panel must be present for the hearing to proceed. The responsibilities of the Chair, members and the Secretary are defined in the Student Disciplinary Policy and Procedures.

### **C.3.3 Conflict of interest**

Members of a Student Disciplinary Panel should not have had any direct association with the student or prior knowledge of the case. A member of staff who believes he/she may have a conflict of interest in respect of a particular case should advise the Secretary to the Panel who will determine whether the member of staff can serve on the Panel. If necessary, the Secretary will consult the Chair of the Panel for advice.

## **C.4 Student Disciplinary Appeals Panel**

### **C.4.1 Terms of Reference**

Student Disciplinary Appeal Panels have the power to:

- Consider an appeal against the outcome of a Student Disciplinary Panel
- Consider an appeal against a penalty imposed by the Deputy Chief Operating Officer or a Student Disciplinary Panel
- Decide whether an offence has been committed with regard to an appeal against the outcome of a Student Disciplinary Panel
- Decide whether a penalty imposed by the Deputy Chief Operating Officer or Student Disciplinary Panel is too severe with regard to an appeal against a penalty imposed by the Deputy Chief Operating Officer or Student Disciplinary Panel

- Establish whether there are mitigating circumstances which can be taken into account when determining a penalty
- Determine and apply an appropriate penalty
- Make additional recommendations to the student regarding his/her future conduct
- Make recommendations regarding changes to Bloomsbury Institute's processes where improvements are deemed necessary

#### **C.4.2 Membership**

The membership will comprise:

- A Head of Division or a Head of Department who will Chair the hearing; and
- One member of staff
- A member of the Quality team will be in attendance as Secretary to the hearing

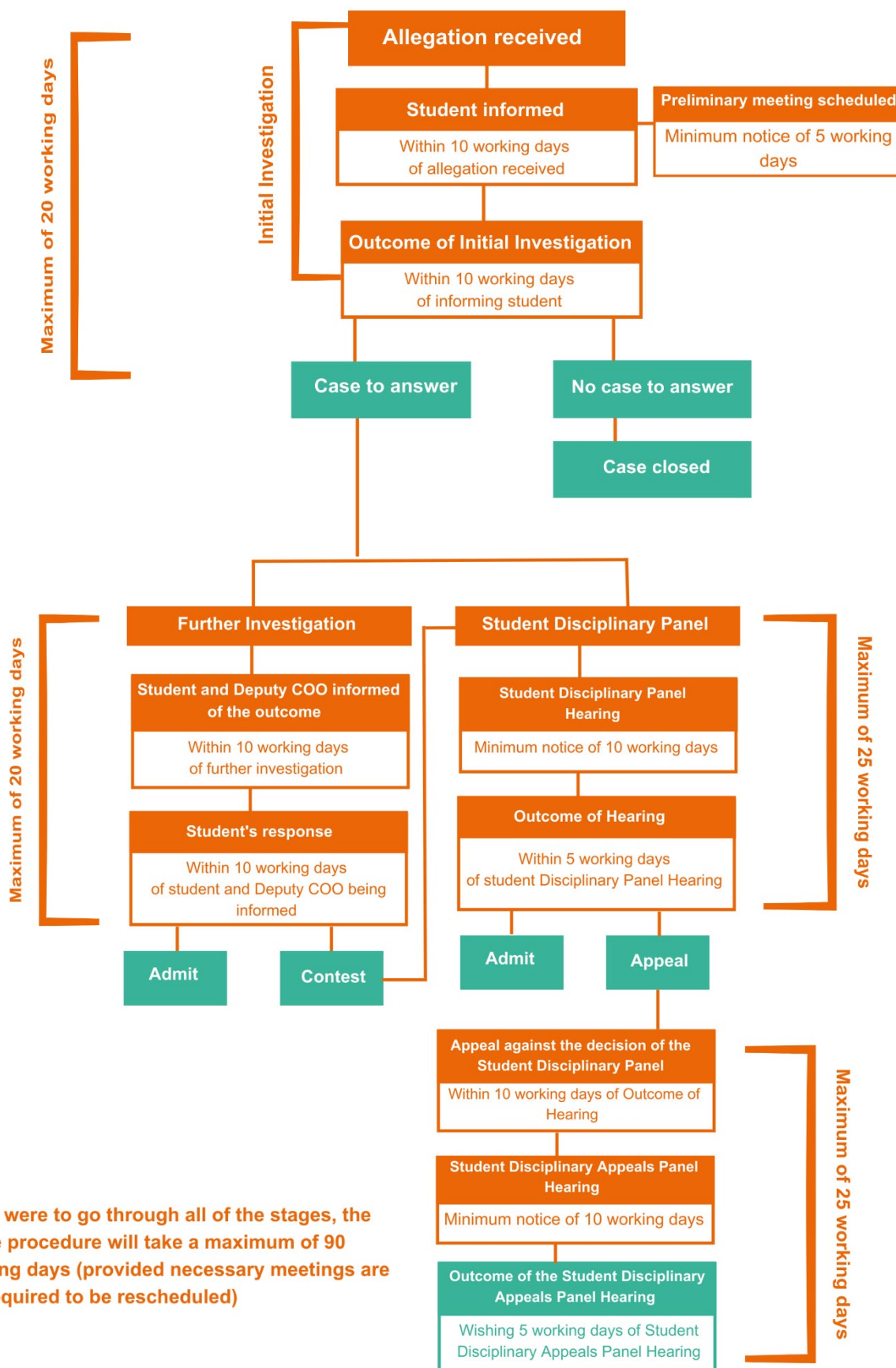
All members of the Panel must be present for the appeal hearing to proceed. The responsibilities of the Chair, members and Secretary are defined in the Student Disciplinary Policy and Procedures.

#### **C.5 Conflict of interest**

Members of a Student Disciplinary Appeals Panel should not have had any direct association with the student or prior knowledge of the case. A member of staff who believes he/she may have a conflict of interest in respect of a particular case should advise the Secretary to the Panel who will determine whether the member of staff can serve on the Panel. If necessary, the Secretary will consult the Chair of the Panel for advice.

C6:

# Student Disciplinary Procedure Flowchart



If you were to go through all of the stages, the whole procedure will take a maximum of 90 working days (provided necessary meetings are not required to be rescheduled)