

In an emergency:

If you are concerned that a child, young person, or vulnerable adult is in possible IMMEDIATE danger - including risk of suicide, please contact the Emergency Services by telephoning 999 or 112 from outside the UK.

If the individual is under 18 you must then email details about the incident to Safeguarding-Referrals@open.ac.uk. If you cannot send an email, call Tel +44(0) 1908 858284, and leave a message and the Safeguarding Referrals Team will contact you during standard business hours.

Summary

This policy sets out the parameters and expectations for using social media in connection with your Open University study and the Open University in general.

Social media is a useful tool for building community and connecting with others, but it is important that it is used responsibly in accordance with the Student Charter values and showing respect to others.

Attention is drawn to the following student policies which are equally relevant to the online space as the physical space:

- [Code of Practice for Student Discipline](#)
- [Academic Freedom Principles Statement](#)
- [Dignity and Respect Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Study Policy](#)
- [Academic Conduct Policy](#)
- [Prevent Principles](#)
- [Recording of Online Tutorials](#)
- [Safeguarding Policy](#)

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Students behaving in a way that contravenes this policy will be dealt with under the [Code of Practice for Student Discipline](#).

The policy sets out the following sorts of behaviours that are unacceptable when in any way linked to The Open University:

- Cyberbullying
- Trolling
- Harassment
- Hate speech
- Collusion or cheating on assignments
- Posting or re-posting abuse
- Posting or re-posting offensive or defamatory images or using offensive or defamatory language
- Posting or re-posting discriminatory material.

For further information please see [The Open University Social Media Policy](#).

Other key social media considerations highlighted in the policy are:

- The potential danger to your reputation and possibly future career prospects if you post or re-post offensive material
- The importance of avoiding discussion of assessment questions or answers as this could be collusion or plagiarism
- The need to keep yourself safe online especially from identity theft, being careful about the information you share online
- The limitations on the use of The Open University and The Open University Students Association names and logos online
- The considerations to be taken into account if you set up or administer a group associated with your OU studies on a social media platform.

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It is important to note that the use of social media is a personal choice, you should not feel pressured into using it and nor must you expect anyone else to respond to you via a social media platform.

The policy document explains how complaints under the policy can be made and includes a form which can be used to report unacceptable behaviour.

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