

April 2019

Social Media Guide

As a Committee member for your club or society (and also as an individual student) you must be aware of how easily you can get yourself and your group into trouble by posting something on social media which is a breach of our social media regulations.

Derogatory comments about the University, staff, other students or members of the public made on social media can easily lead to you facing disciplinary proceedings, or if you are training on a professional course it could lead to you being assessed to see if you are fit to practice as a member of that profession; which ultimately means you could be discontinued from your course.

The Code of Conduct for Students which you must abide by makes clear that you will be in breach of the Rules and Regulations if you do anything which damages the University name or damages its reputation.

Every year we see students who have got themselves into deep trouble because they did not realise that there is no such thing as a true privacy setting on social media. As soon as you post anything and someone on your friends list “likes” it, it is then seen by outsiders to your list and can go viral. Once posted your post may also be picked up by others and shared without your permission.

This does not mean that you cannot raise concerns, but you are expected to raise any issues you may have in an appropriate way – this does NOT mean posting it on Facebook or tweeting about the problem. The University and The Union expects you to talk to them if there are problems so they have a chance to put things right. We can help you do this.

If you are unsure about how to approach a problem on behalf of your Club or Society please come and talk to a member of the Student Activities team in the SU office. If you have an individual or personal issue, then please contact a member of the SU Advice Team, who can provide you with independent and confidential advice. We can help you to deal with the problem and get it resolved. If you do get yourself or your club or society into trouble, then tell us, so we can make sure it does not get worse! Possible Scenarios Include:

- Negative or defamatory comments regarding other teams/societies
- Comments about unsafe facilities
- Personal abuse towards others
- Discriminatory comments
- Offensive language and or images

- Unprofessional behaviour of members of club

Disciplinary Action

Although this document is a written guidance resource, if any club or society is found to be completely negligent to this resource and/or is found to have posted something on social media which has a negative impact on the wellbeing of anyone viewing the offending post; they will be brought in front of the Student Activities Disciplinary committee; where the club/society will be scrutinised against the current ARUSU clubs and societies code of conduct.