

# Student Charter

## Section 1 - Purpose

(1) The purpose of the Student Charter is to help students understand what it means to be a student member of the Charles Sturt University community, including the expectations students and the University may have of each other. The Student Charter aims to encourage active partnership between the University and its students in learning and teaching, professional practice, research and the life of the University community.

## Section 2 - Glossary

(2) For the purposes of this Charter:

- a. Duty to foster the wellbeing of staff and students – means the University’s duty as stated in the policy library glossary.
- b. Imposed by law - in relation to restrictions or burdens or conditions on a freedom includes restrictions or burdens or conditions imposed by statute law, the common law (including the law of defamation), duties of confidentiality, restrictions deriving from intellectual property law and restrictions imposed by contract.
- c. Public comment - means any form of public speech and includes but is not limited to public speaking engagements, comments on radio or television, the expression of views in letters to newspapers or in books, journals, notices or other media (including social media such as Facebook and Twitter) where it might be expected that the publication or circulation of the comment will spread to the community at large.
- d. Speech - extends to all forms of expressive conduct including oral speech and written, artistic, musical and performing works and activity and communication using social media; and the word ‘speak’ has a corresponding meaning.
- e. Student - means a person who is or was enrolled in, or seeking enrolment in, a program or course offered by the University, or who is or was given permission by the University to audit a course offered by the University.

## Section 3 - Policy

### Values

(3) The University is committed to excellence, integrity and sustainability in teaching and research. The Standards of student conduct support the University's values of being:

- a. insightful,
- b. inclusive,
- c. impactful, and
- d. inspiring.

(4) All students are expected to familiarise themselves with this Charter and the sanctions that can be applied under the [Student Misconduct Rule 2020](#) for a breach of the Charter.

## **Students Expectations**

### **University Environment**

(5) In relation to the University environment, students can expect:

- a. to be provided equality of opportunity, and be treated with respect and tolerance to enable the pursuit of academic goals without fear or intimidation,
- b. a work and study environment that is responsive to, and inclusive of, the social and cultural diversity of the communities the University serves,
- c. opportunities to contribute to the organisational and cultural life of the University and to be represented and actively involved in relevant University committees,
- d. a University environment that is safe, healthy and free from bullying or harassment, and
- e. to enjoy freedom of speech on University premises or facilities and in connection with the University, and academic freedom, subject only to the restraints or burdens imposed by:
  - i. law,
  - ii. the reasonable and proportionate regulation of conduct necessary to the discharge of the University's teaching and research activities,
  - iii. the right and freedom of others to express themselves and to hear and receive information and opinions,
  - iv. the reasonable and proportionate regulation of conduct to enable the University to fulfil its duty to foster the wellbeing of staff and students,
  - v. the reasonable and proportionate regulation of conduct to enable the University to give effect to its legal duties, including its duties to students, staff, visitors to the University and other members of the University community, and
  - vi. the University by way of its reasonable requirements as to the courses to be delivered and the content and means of their delivery.

### **Teaching and Research**

(6) In relation to teaching and research, students can expect:

- a. the opportunity to engage with accessible and effective teaching and professional practice and to interact with researchers and research outcomes,
- b. academic freedoms to:
  - i. engage in intellectual inquiry, express their opinions and beliefs and contribute to public debate in relation to their subjects of study and research,
  - ii. express their opinions in relation to the higher education provider in which they are enrolled,
  - iii. participate in student societies and associations,
- c. recognition of the intellectual property rights of students to their work,
- d. University staff to interact with students with honesty, integrity and in a timely manner while maintaining the confidentiality, integrity and security of student personal information,
- e. the University will provide research students with a supervisor who has appropriate knowledge of a student's research; provides appropriate support for, and interest in, a student's work; carries out necessary administrative responsibilities in an appropriate time, and
- f. the provision of student-focussed infrastructure including information technology, library and social support.

### **University Rules and Processes**

(7) In regard to rules and processes of the University, students can expect:

- a. access to information about University rules, policies, procedures and guidelines including research and study requirements and that they will be applied appropriately,
- b. processes to resolve conflicts between students and supervisors including those over research direction, non-research work task; personal interests of the supervisor, authorship of publications, and personality conflicts,
- c. opportunities to contribute to the organisational and cultural life of the University and to be represented and actively involved in relevant University committees, and
- d. opportunities to provide feedback for the improvement of the University.

## **University Expectations**

### **Personal Behaviour**

(8) In regard to personal behaviour, the University expects students to:

- a. behave in a manner that demonstrates respect and tolerance by treating others with courtesy, dignity and respect; accommodates the rights and differences of others and ensures that their own conduct contributes to a work and study environment free of bullying, discrimination and harassment,
- b. ensure public comments on issues are clearly made in a personal capacity and not on behalf of the University or as an officer of the University, and
- c. accept responsibility for their actions and demonstrate the ability to advocate their own interests while interacting with the University and its staff with honesty, integrity and in a timely manner.

### **University Community**

(9) In being a member of the University's community, students are expected to:

- a. adhere to University rules, policies and procedures and not behave in a way that brings the University into disrepute,
- b. take every opportunity to contribute to the organisational and cultural life of the University and to the work of relevant University committees,
- c. provide solicited and unsolicited feedback for the improvement of the University,
- d. take all reasonable care for the health, safety and wellbeing of others, and report hazards, incidents, accidents and risk of harm or injury to the appropriate University officer, and
- e. treat University services/facilities with respect and use them responsibly.

### **Academic Life**

(10) In relation to academic life, the University expects students to:

- a. contribute positively with honesty, fairness and responsibility while observing ethical standards in all aspects of teaching, learning, professional and research activities, and
- b. recognise the intellectual property rights of the work and research that others produce individually or in partnership with them.

## **Section 4 - Procedures**

(11) Nil.

# Section 5 - Guidelines

(12) Nil.

## Status and Details

<b>Status</b>	Current
<b>Effective Date</b>	8th December 2020
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## Glossary Terms and Definitions

**"Duty to foster the wellbeing of staff and students"** - includes the duty to ensure that no member of staff and no student suffers unfair disadvantage or unfair adverse discrimination on any basis recognised at law including race, gender, sexuality, religion and political belief; includes the duty to ensure that no member of staff and no student is subject to threatening or intimidating behaviour by another person or persons on account of anything they have said or proposed to say in exercising their freedom of speech; supports reasonable and proportionate measures to prevent any person from using lawful speech which a reasonable person would regard, in the circumstances, as likely to humiliate or intimidate other persons and which is intended to have either or both of those effects; does not extend to a duty to protect any person from feeling offended or shocked or insulted by the lawful speech of another.