



# University Community Charter

## Introduction

A successful academic community at Harper Adams requires a partnership between all those who contribute to university life. This charter outlines the general principles of this partnership and details how these should be upheld. Although not a legally binding contract, it acts as a statement of intention and expectation<sup>1</sup>. This document is routinely reviewed, by student and staff representatives, to ensure it remains current.

## University Community Charter Principles

### The University Community:

1. Expects mutual respect between all its members.
2. Embraces diversity and promotes equality.
3. Works towards learning and teaching excellence.
4. Ensures a fair, diligent and constructive approach to all assessment.
5. Encourages the personal and professional development of its members.
6. Shares a safe, appropriate and attractive campus in which to live, learn and work.
7. Encourages well-being through good physical and mental health.
8. Includes staff and students in decision making.

<sup>1</sup> The University Community Charter is not intended to define or limit the legal rights and responsibilities of respective parties, which are laid out more fully in University policies, procedures and regulations, accessible at the University's Key Information Pages: [www.harper.ac.uk/keyinfo](http://www.harper.ac.uk/keyinfo).

## 1. Mutual respect

The University will:

Ensure staff treat students, and fellow staff, with dignity and courtesy, fairly and equally in line with regulations and with respect at all times.

Students will:

Treat staff and each other with dignity and courtesy at all times, whether online or in person, respecting individuality and difference, alongside the common purpose of learning.

Respect the facilities and resources in place to support their learning and wider student experience.

## 2. Diversity and equality

The University will:

Provide teaching and learning opportunities that respect the individual differences of students.

Provide opportunities for students to learn and socialise together, fostering mutual understanding.

Provide opportunities that support different faiths and cultures, and that facilitate mutual understanding between all students.

Ensure that the university meets all legal requirements relating to equality and diversity.

Operate clearly enforced policies in relation to unacceptable behaviour.

Students will:

Appreciate and learn about the differences amongst members of the university community and always act respectfully to all staff and students of all faiths and cultures, races, age, genders, sexual orientations, and disabilities.

Report any instances of behaviour which are unacceptable in keeping with published policies.

## 3. Learning and teaching excellence

The University will:

Create an effective learning environment with accessible, high quality support and up-to-date teaching, and appropriate resources to support learning.

Provide teaching and support that respects diversity and promotes equality of opportunity for students.

Ensure teaching staff are suitably qualified and/or experienced, and engage in continuing professional development to support the student experience.

Students will:

Apply themselves diligently to their studies and seek advice from tutors when necessary.

Participate fully in the learning opportunities provided and commit to undertake independent study to ensure their potential is reached.

#### 4. Assessment

The University will:

Provide a fair, balanced assessment process governed by rules and regulations, which will be published and explained in a timely fashion.

Ensure that students have an appropriate assessment schedule, as well as opportunities to prepare to successfully undertake formal assessments.

Provide opportunities for assessment preparation, and also timely, constructive and legible feedback on assessment performances.

Students will:

Participate fully in activities designed to support success in assessment and act on the information given to support assessment.

Complete all assessment work on time and to the highest standard possible and with integrity.

Recognise and engage with the feedback provided to them through a variety of means.

Hand in assignments on time and comply with the assignment submission and deadline policy.

#### 5. Personal growth and professional development

The University will:

Provide support, opportunities and information to enable personal development planning within the context of courses.

Ensure that all courses are linked to professional growth and up-to-date employment opportunities.

Students will:

Reflect upon their personal and professional development and plan to strengthen their skills and employability through engagement in learning, employment and social related activities.

Embrace opportunities for personal and professional development within the context of theory course, their placement or through engagement with the careers service.

#### 6. Safe, sustainable, appropriate and attractive campus

The University will:

Maintain an accessible and desirable, safe and secure, living and learning environment for students on campus.

Provide enabling and reliable virtual spaces to support remote learning and independent study.

Students will:

Seek to live harmoniously, respecting the campus environment and with full regard for the needs of others in their own residential community, and the wider community.

Comply with regulations concerning campus accommodation, including regulations in relation to cleanliness, payment of fees and behaviour.

## 7. Well-being

The University will:

Foster a positive culture of well-being, particularly ensuring that staff are well informed about mental health and well-being and are able to signpost specialist support.

Provide facilities, policies and support opportunities to promote physical and mental well-being.

Students will:

Endeavour to develop their own well-being, and to communicate any issues which might affect their learning.

Contribute to the well-being of others by being supportive and respectful.

## 8. Decision making

The University will:

Provide and raise awareness of opportunities for students to take an active part in university decision-making.

Support students to fully participate in these forums of university decision making.

Listen to the student view through a range of forums, and respond to issues raised.

Students will:

Participate fully in the selection of student representation on Boards and Committees and ensure that opportunities to feedback on aspects of the university are taken to help the university continually improve the student experience.

Work with their student representatives to ensure that feedback on the whole student experience is highlighted to inform the continued enhancement of the institution.