



Frequently Asked Questions for Student Discipline

Scope

Common questions raised in relation to student conduct and the University's disciplinary regulations.

To be read in conjunction with [Senate Regulation 13: Student Discipline](#) and the Student Discipline policy in Section 4 of the Quality Manual

It is recommended that you refer the [student information](#) page for student conduct and the [procedures](#) page for student conduct. Advice and guidance can be sought from the [Union Support Service](#).

Click on the red question mark to go directly to the answer

- 1. I'm under investigation under the disciplinary regulations; can I still attend the University?**
- 2. 2. What sanctions could be invoked as a result of disciplinary action?**
- 3. 3. What kind of hearing will there be?**
- 4. 4. Can I appeal against a disciplinary decision?**

1. I'm under investigation under the disciplinary regulations; can I still attend the University?

Much will depend on the nature of the complaint which has been made against you. In all cases, you can expect to be informed of the complaint and to be given an opportunity to respond before a conclusion is reached. An exception to this is where it is decided that an immediate suspension is necessary to protect the University or members of the University community. Such a suspension would be treated as a precautionary measure, pending further investigation.

If you are unsure of the implications for your continued attendance, ask for clarification from the person who has notified you of the investigation.

Independent advice and support is also available from the Students' Union Support Service.

2. What sanctions could be invoked as a result of disciplinary action?

The sanctions that could be invoked are listed in the University's Regulation on Student Discipline and range from a written warning or compensatory action, through to exclusion, suspension or expulsion. The University also has the power to withdraw awards it has made to a student.

3. What kind of hearing will there be?

The University's policy is always to seek an early resolution where this is possible. You may be asked to attend an interview with one or more members of staff within your School to inform you of a complaint against you and to invite you to respond.

For serious cases, or those which have not been possible to resolve locally, a referral may be made to the University level. In this case, you will normally be invited to a 'preliminary interview' with a University Officer appointed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor. If you dispute the reports made against you or if it is otherwise not possible to close the matter at the interview, a Disciplinary Panel will be established.

A Disciplinary Panel will take some time to arrange, but you will be invited to attend (you may bring someone with you, if you wish). You will have an opportunity to submit a written statement and/or supporting documents and you will receive copies of the same documentation which is distributed to the Panel.

4. Can I appeal against a disciplinary decision?

The Student Discipline Regulation includes an option for an internal appeal on limited grounds. If there are sufficient grounds to proceed, an Appeal Panel will be arranged as described in the Regulations.

Once all internal procedures have been completed, this will be confirmed in a letter from the University. The letter will advise of the option for making an application to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA), which operates an independent Scheme for the review of student complaints. The Scheme is free for students to use. Information on the OIA and examples of the types of cases considered may be found on their website.