Document Q9.3.4

STUDENT DISCIPLINE REGULATIONS

Approved by Academic Board – October 2019

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1 Interpretation

1.1 In these Regulations:

1.1.1 “the Appeal Panel” means the body comprising at least two senior members of University staff, at least one of which is at Executive Manager level, appointed by the Head of Student Discipline to conduct a disciplinary appeal hearing. The Appeal Panel may not include members of staff who made the decision against which the student is appealing.

1.1.2 “the Campus” means the site or location where the Student subject to these Regulations is registered to attend and may be a University campus or other site or campus subject to a formal ‘working with others’ arrangement.

1.1.3 “the Campus Dean” means the director or other person who has primary responsibility for the management of a Campus, or his or her nominee; or for Students not based in a campus or situated on a site or campus subject to a formal ‘working with others’ arrangement, the director or other person with overall responsibility for delivery of the programme concerned, or his/her nominee.

1.1.4 “Completion of Procedures Letter” means the letter issued by the University once a Student has completed the University’s internal complaints or appeals procedures. The letter sets out the issues considered and the decision reached by the University.

1.1.5 “Director of the University” means any person who holds that title as a consequence of his or her post in the University.

1.1.6 “Disciplinary Hearing” means a formal opportunity for a Student to address an alleged disciplinary offence.

1.1.7 “Disciplinary Offence” includes, but is not restricted to, those matters set out in Regulation 6.

1.1.8 “Hearing Officer” means the member of the University staff appointed to conduct a Disciplinary Hearing.

1.1.9 “Investigating Officer” means a member of the University staff appointed to conduct an investigation of an alleged disciplinary offence.

1.1.10 “the Head of Student Discipline” is the member of University staff appointed to oversee the Disciplinary Hearing and Appeal Hearing stages of the Student Discipline process.

1.1.11 “Regulation/Regulations” means these regulations i.e. the Student Discipline Regulations.
1.1.12 “Student/s” means any person or persons who has accepted a place at the University, is currently studying at the University, or is a past student of the University.

1.1.13 “the University” means The University of Law.

2 Purpose and scope

2.1 The Regulations have been devised with a view to helping to preserve: the safety and welfare of all the University’s Students (regardless of the programme or mode of study), staff and visitors; the effective delivery of the educational and support services to which the Students are entitled; the integrity of the University’s assessments and awards; and the University’s general reputation and standing.

2.2 The Regulations are used to determine whether a Student has committed a disciplinary offence, whether or not the relevant behaviour takes place on University premises.

2.3 Where possible, offences specified in Regulation 6.1 should be dealt with on a pastoral or other informal basis, and reference must be made to the Support to Study Policy prior to any action being taken, though a formal Disciplinary Hearing must be held where notification to the Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) or other accrediting body is proposed as an outcome.

2.4 Any notification required in these Regulations must be given in writing.

2.5 Any Disciplinary Hearing will be conducted in accordance with the rules of natural justice.

2.6 In determining whether the alleged Disciplinary Offence has been committed, the standard of proof to be applied by the University is one of the ‘balance of probabilities’. The Hearing Officer will consider all evidence and the Appeal Panel will review new evidence objectively and will assess whether in their view the Disciplinary Offence has been proved on this basis to have taken place.

2.7 The powers given to the University under the Regulations do not limit any powers which it may also have under its contract with the Student to terminate, temporarily suspend or in other ways modify its performance of the contract.

2.8 As part of this process, where the Campus Dean and/or Head of Student Discipline deems it appropriate (for example, if the alleged offence is one of collusion) the University may disclose the name(s) of any other student(s) alleged to be involved in the matter to other parties, including other students suspected of involvement in the same matter.
2.9 Students will remain liable for fees, as confirmed in their Terms and Conditions and the Financial Regulations, irrespective of any disciplinary action taken under the Regulations.

2.10 The Campus Dean and/or Head of Student Discipline have the discretion to ‘stay’ any stage of these proceedings for a period of time should he or she deem it appropriate to do so; for example, where a Student has an imminent assessment.

2.11 Where a Student against whom the procedures under the Regulations have been instigated withdraws from the University prior to completion of those procedures, the Campus Dean and/or Head of Student Discipline have the discretion to continue those procedures until the process is completed and to make a decision in respect of the matter.

2.12 Should the Student refuse to co-operate in the ongoing process, the Campus Dean and/or Head of Student Discipline have the discretion to continue those procedures in the absence of the Student until the process is completed and to make a decision in respect of the matter.

3 Investigation of allegation

3.1 Where the Campus Dean receives a notification of an alleged breach of the Regulations, which in his or her view cannot be dealt with under Regulation 2.3, he or she will appoint a member of staff at Manager Level or above, who has no connection with the allegation, as the Investigating Officer to investigate the matter and report to the Campus Dean on the outcome of their investigation.

3.2 Subject to Regulation 3.3, the Campus Dean will notify the Student of: the alleged offence; the investigation; the identity of the Investigating Officer; and will provide a copy of the Regulations to the Student.

3.3 Where it is alleged that the Student has committed an Assessment Related Offence within Regulation 6.2 notification of the investigation to the Student may, at the discretion of the Campus Dean, be delayed until such time as he or she decides to proceed under Regulation 3.7(c).

3.4 Pending the outcome of an investigation, the Campus Dean may:
(a) exclude the Student from; or
(b) restrict the Student’s access to the Campus, under the provisions of Regulation 4
(c) withhold a student’s results from publication.

3.5 Should the Investigating Officer require a meeting with the Student as part of their investigation, the Investigating Officer will notify the Student of:

(a) the time, date, and location of the meeting;
(b) the Student’s right to be accompanied at the meeting by a friend or relative; and
(c) the need to notify the Investigating Officer in advance of the meeting of the name of the person accompanying the Student to the meeting.

3.6 The person accompanying the Student under Regulation 3.5(b) does so for the purpose of support only and may not make representations on the Student's behalf.

3.7 Upon receipt of the Investigating Officer’s report, the Campus Dean may decide:
(a) to take no further action;
(b) to deal with the matter under Regulation 2.3; or
(c) to initiate a Disciplinary Hearing under Regulation 5 to formally determine whether or not an offence has taken place (this stage should always take place where notification to the PSRB or other accrediting body is proposed as an outcome).

3.8 Subject to Regulation 3.9 the Campus Dean will then notify in writing the Student concerned of:
(a) the investigation and the identity of the Investigating Officer, if this information has not already been provided; and
(b) the decision of the Investigating Officer and a copy of their full report.

3.9 The Campus Dean has no duty to notify the Student in accordance with Regulation 3.8 where the Student has not previously been notified of the investigation and the Campus Dean has decided to take no further action in accordance with Regulation 3.7(a).

4 Exclusion pending a Disciplinary Hearing

4.1 Where a Student has been notified under Regulation 3.2 that he or she is subject to an investigation of an alleged breach of the regulations, the Campus Dean may, subject to Regulations 4.2 – 4.5 inclusive, exclude to such extent and for such periods as he or she deems necessary, the Student’s access to and use of any and all Campuses, pending the outcome of the investigation or any Disciplinary Hearing which results from it.

4.2 The Campus Dean may exercise their powers under Regulation 4.1 only where he or she has reasonable grounds to determine that such action is necessary to protect: the Student under investigation; any other Student or member of staff at any Campus; the property, facilities and equipment at any Campus; or any evidence which will be relevant to the investigation or Disciplinary Hearing.

4.3 The Campus Dean must first notify the Student in writing of the exclusion and the grounds for it and, as soon as practicable, provide the Student with an opportunity to appeal against the exclusion (see Regulation 10).

4.4 The Campus Dean must take reasonable steps to enable any Student who is
subject to exclusion to pursue their course of study, without access to or use of a Campus, and obtain reasonable access to teaching, assessment and support services, if practical.

4.5 The Campus Dean will review his or her decision to exclude a Student at intervals of no more than three weeks and will notify the Student in writing of the outcome of each review.

5 Disciplinary Hearing

5.1 Where the Campus Dean decides to initiate a Disciplinary Hearing under Regulation 3.7 (c), the Head of Student Discipline shall appoint a member of staff at Manager level or above, who has no connection with the allegation, as the Hearing Officer to conduct the Disciplinary Hearing. The Disciplinary Hearing will normally be conducted in person but may be conducted by telephone if deemed appropriate by the Hearing Officer.

5.2 The Hearing Officer will notify the Student at least seven calendar days before the Disciplinary Hearing of:

(a) the time, date, and location of the hearing;
(b) the identity of the Hearing Officer;
(c) the nature of the allegation together with a copy of any documents to be relied upon by the Hearing Officer at the hearing;
(d) the Student’s right to be accompanied at the hearing by a friend or relative;
(e) the need to notify the Hearing Officer in advance of the hearing of the name of the person accompanying the Student to the hearing;
(f) the right to submit written evidence (at least 2 working days) prior to the hearing, which will be considered in addition to oral evidence presented at the hearing.

5.3 The person accompanying the Student under Regulation 5.2(d) does so for the purpose of support only and may not make representations on the Student's behalf. The Student is not entitled to bring a legal representative.

5.4 If the Student alerts the Hearing Officer that they are unable to attend, one further date will be offered for the hearing to take place. If the Student is still unable to attend, or fails to attend on the arranged date, the Hearing Officer may determine the matter in the Student’s absence.

5.5 The Hearing Officer will have discretion to regulate the procedure, subject to the overriding aims and principles set out in the Student Discipline Regulations.

5.6 After the conclusion of the hearing, the Hearing Officer must consider the evidence from the hearing and determine:
6.1 Ordinary Disciplinary offences

Ordinary Disciplinary offences may include, but are not restricted to:

6.1.1 Poor timekeeping;
6.1.2 Failure to provide up-to-date contact details or other information which the University reasonably requires and is entitled to receive;
6.1.3 Words (including written words) or behaviour which are threatening, abusive or insulting to other Students, University staff, or visitors;
6.1.4 Words (including written words) or behaviour which cause harassment, alarm or distress to other Students, University staff, or visitors;
6.1.5 Behaviour which disrupts the ability of other Students or University staff to conduct their study or work, or to participate in other University activities;
6.1.6 Deliberate and minor damage to the property of the University, or of its Students, staff or visitors, which is on University premises;
6.1.7 Behaviour which could be considered to bring the University into disrepute;
6.1.8 Behaviour in relation to a formative assessment or marked exercise undertaken for formative purposes only which would constitute an Assessment Related Offence under Regulation 6.2 if that behaviour related to a summative assessment.
6.1.9 Registering another student at a timetabled teaching event in which that student did not participate.

6.2 Assessment Related offences

Assessment Related offences generally constitute unfair practice (illustrated at 6.2.1 to 6.2.9 below) or inappropriate practice (illustrated at 6.2.10 below) and may include, but are not restricted to, the following behaviour in relation to any summative assessment:

6.2.1 Using or possessing any material during an assessment which is not permitted for that assessment;
6.2.2 Copying, or attempting to copy, the work of any other current or former Student;
6.2.3 Assisting another Student with an assessment unless specifically
authorised to do so;

6.2.4 Colluding with any current Student or a person who had previously been registered as a student at the University;

6.2.5 Knowingly and without specific and accurate attribution submitting material which is substantially similar to that of another person; i.e. passing off the work of another as one’s own work;

6.2.6 Taking, or attempting to take, any step which is likely to afford an unfair advantage over other candidates; or knowingly assisting another Student to do so;

6.2.7 Impersonating another Student or assisting another Student to do so;

6.2.8 Making a false statement;

6.2.9 Fabrication of data, for example when a Student enhances, exaggerates or wholly fabricates data submitted as part of that Student’s work;

6.2.10 Failing to comply with the University’s Statement of Practice relating to ethical research;

6.2.11 Making available to another student a coursework assessment or material relating to the drafting of that assessment, whether intentionally or otherwise.

6.3 Gross Misconduct

An offence of Gross Misconduct may include but is not restricted to:

6.3.1 Theft;
6.3.2 Fraud;
6.3.3 Assault causing bodily harm;
6.3.4 Sexual assault;
6.3.5 Words or behaviour giving rise to reasonable apprehension that serious bodily harm will be caused;
6.3.6 Deliberate and significant damage to University property;
6.3.7 Deliberate disregard of any rule intended to protect Students, University staff or visitors from harm;
6.3.8 Deliberate disregard of any rule intended to protect the property of Students, University staff or visitors to the University from significant damage;
6.3.9 Serious incapacity caused by alcohol or illegal drugs;
6.3.10 Serious acts of insubordination, for example, refusal to obey a reasonable and authorised instruction;
6.3.11 Discrimination, including harassment, on any grounds proscribed by law;
6.3.12 Failure to comply with conditions attached to a Tier 4 or other visa issued by the Home Office or UK Border Agency;
6.3.13 Providing false, inaccurate or misleading information to the University either in respect of their eligibility for study, immigration status or in support of a request for Tier 4 sponsorship from the University;
6.3.14 Behaviour which is of a kind which has been the subject of a Final Written Warning under Regulation 7.
7 Penalties

7.1 Ordinary Disciplinary offences

7.1.1 The penalties for an Ordinary Disciplinary Offence are:

(a) Written Warning;
(b) Final Written Warning.

7.2 Assessment Related offences

7.2.1 The penalties for an Assessment Related Offence are:

(a) Written Warning;
(b) Final Written Warning;
(c) The award of a mark of zero for the assessment concerned;
(d) Expulsion from the University either with immediate effect or from any other date to be determined by the Campus Dean and/or Head of Student Discipline; and
(e) In the case of an offence under Regulation 6.2.9 only, an additional penalty of exclusion from marking of part of a Student’s script for the assessment concerned.

7.2.2 The University must report any offence to the applicable professional body responsible for regulating the programme on which the Student is registered, together with any mitigating circumstances, as appropriate.

7.3 Gross Misconduct

7.3.1 The penalties for an offence of Gross Misconduct are:

(a) Written Warning;
(b) Final Written Warning;
(c) The award of a mark of zero for the assessment concerned;
(d) Expulsion from the University either with immediate effect or from any other date to be determined by the Campus Dean and/or Head of Student Discipline;
(e) In the case of an offence under Regulation 6.2.9 only, an additional penalty of exclusion from marking of part of a Student’s script for the assessment concerned.

7.3.2 The University reports any offence of gross misconduct as defined by 6.3.1 and 6.3.2 to the professional body responsible for regulating the programme on which the Student is registered, together with any mitigating circumstances, as appropriate.
8 Reporting on disciplinary offences

8.1 Where a disciplinary offence has been committed and the Student has received any one or more of the penalties under Regulations 7.1 – 7.3, this information will be disclosed in any University references to third parties, including any references to the Solicitors Regulation Authority, the Bar Standards Board or any other relevant professional regulatory body.

8.2 In respect of Regulations 7.1; and 7.3, the University may also report the offence concerned and the penalty imposed to the professional body responsible for regulating the programme on which the Student is registered.

8.3 Where a disciplinary offence has been committed and the Student has also been sentenced by a criminal court in respect of the same facts, the sentence of the court may be taken into consideration by the University when determining the penalty to be imposed.

8.4 Should the Campus Dean and/or Head of Student Discipline decide it appropriate to impose a penalty for the offence under Regulation 7, the Student is notified of this decision within 14 calendar days of the Disciplinary Hearing.

9 Misconduct which may constitute a criminal offence

9.1 The following requirements apply, where it is alleged that the Student has behaved in a manner which would constitute an offence under both Regulation 6 and the criminal law.

9.2 Subject to Regulation 9.4, where the offence concerned falls under Regulation 6, and the alleged victim has not notified the police, action under these Regulations may proceed.

9.3 Subject to Regulation 9.4, where the offence falls under Regulation 6, and the alleged victim has notified or intends to notify the police then, unless it has been authorised in writing by the Group Legal Counsel (or his delegate within the University’s legal team), action under these Regulations, excluding any under Regulation 4, must be stayed until the outcome of the police investigation, and any criminal proceedings which result from it, are completed. On the conclusion of any police investigation or any criminal proceedings the Campus Dean and/or Head of Student Discipline, following consultation with the Group Legal Counsel (or his delegate within the University’s legal team), will notify the Student in writing whether the disciplinary proceedings against the Student are to be re-instated or withdrawn.

9.4 Where the criminal or potentially criminal offence falls under Regulation 6, unless it has been authorised in writing by the Group Legal Counsel (or his delegate within the University’s legal team), action under the Regulations, excluding any taken under Regulation 4, may not be initiated:
(a) unless the victim has reported the matter to the police; and
(b) until the outcome of the police investigation and any criminal proceedings which result from it are known.

9.5 On the conclusion of any police investigation or any criminal proceedings the Campus Dean and/or Head of Student Discipline, following consultation with the Group Legal Counsel (or his delegate within the University’s legal team), will notify the Student in writing whether the disciplinary proceedings against the Student are to be initiated, re-instated or withdrawn.

10 Appeals

10.1 The Student may appeal against a decision made under Regulations 4, 6 or 7. Any outcome from the hearing stage (eg mark of zero for an assessment or expulsion from the University) will remain in effect until potentially overturned at the appeal stage.

10.2 To do so, within 14 calendar days of the University sending notice of such decision to the Student, the Student must apply in writing to the Academic Registrar, at the address stated in Regulation 10.1, setting out the grounds on which he or she wishes to appeal. The following constitute grounds for appeal:

(a) There is new evidence which could not reasonably have been made available prior to the decision being taken by the Hearing Officer and/or the Campus Dean and/or the Head of Student Discipline; or
(b) A procedural irregularity occurred which had a detrimental impact on the decision taken by the Hearing Officer and/or the Campus Dean and/or the Head of Student Discipline; or
(c) The penalty imposed was disproportionate given the nature of the disciplinary offence; or
(d) Exclusion pending a Disciplinary Hearing was a disproportionate action to take given the nature of the alleged disciplinary offence.

10.3 When applying for an appeal hearing, the Student must provide confirmation of the particular ground(s) for appeal on which he or she intends to rely together with all supporting documents. If the student is unable to submit the appeal within 14 calendar days of the hearing outcome, he or she must include an explanation as to why.

10.4 On receipt of the appeal application the Head of Student Discipline will:

(a) determine whether or not the appeal is eligible for consideration (if late, an adequate explanation must be included)
(b) appoint an Appeal Panel to conduct the appeal;
(c) nominate one member of the Appeal Panel to act as Chair;
(d) confirm a date for the appeal hearing;
(e) notify the Student at least seven calendar days before the hearing of: when and where the hearing will be held; the name of the Appeal Chair and members of the Appeal Panel conducting the appeal; and the right of
the Student to provide a written statement of their case (which will be considered in addition to any oral evidence presented at the Panel meeting) and to be accompanied at the hearing by a friend or relative; and provide to the Student a copy of new documents (if any) to be relied upon by the Appeal Panel at the appeal hearing.

10.5 The person accompanying the Student under Regulation 10.4 (e) does so for the purpose of support only and may not make representations on the Student’s behalf. The Student is not entitled to bring a legal representative.

10.6 If the Student alerts the Appeal Panel that they are unable to attend, one further date for the appeal hearing will be offered. Where a Student, having been notified as required under Regulation 10.4, is still unable to attend or fails to attend the hearing on the arranged date, the Appeal Panel may determine the outcome of the appeal in the Student’s absence.

10.7 At the conclusion of the hearing the Appeal Panel may:

(a) uphold, remove or amend the terms of the Student’s exclusion imposed under Regulation 4; or
(b) uphold or quash the decision made under Regulations 4 or 7, and reduce, but not increase, any penalty imposed on the Student; or
(c) where a procedural defect at the Disciplinary Hearing stage is established, send the case back to be heard by a second Disciplinary Hearing.

10.8 The Appeal Chair will notify the Appeal Panel’s decision to the Head of Student Discipline, who will then send a copy of the decision to the Student within 14 calendar days of the hearing, together with a Completion of Procedures Letter.

10.9 The Appeal Panel’s decision is final. However the Student may request that the decision be reviewed by the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA); details of which must be given in the Completion of Procedures Letter.

10.10 The address to which Regulation 10.2 refers is:
The Academic Registrar (Disciplinary Appeal)
The University of Law
14 Store Street, Bloomsbury
London WC1E 7DE
academic.registry@law.ac.uk

11 Service of Notices

Any written notice required under the Regulations may be served to the recipient in person; sent by e-mail to the recipient’s University e-mail address; sent by e-mail to the recipient’s last known personal e-mail address; sent by post to the recipient’s last known correspondence address; or sent by post to the address of any person nominated by the recipient for this purpose.
Student Discipline Regulations

Date for next review
September 2022

Version history

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