

CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH UNIVERSITY
CODE OF STUDENT PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

What is the purpose of the Code of Student Professional Conduct?

- 1 This Code of Student Professional Conduct sets out the framework for dealing with alleged misconduct. The Code applies to students following programmes leading to a professional qualification. The Code applies to all cases initiated after 1 August 2018. The next scheduled review is to take place no later than June 2021.

- 2 Professional qualifications include, but are not limited to, programmes in the following areas
 - Childhood Studies
 - Clinical Psychology
 - Diagnostic Radiography
 - Nursing
 - Medical Imaging
 - Midwifery
 - Occupational Therapy
 - Operating Department Practice
 - Paramedic Science
 - Policing
 - Physiotherapy
 - Physicians Associate
 - Radiography
 - Social Work
 - Speech and Language Therapy
 - Teacher Training

- 3 The Unacceptable Behaviour Policy sets out the expected conduct by all students. The following procedures set out how we deal with allegations of misconduct by students following professional programmes.

- 4 These procedures apply to attendance at the University and to attachment on professional placement.

- 5 A student may be neutrally withdrawn from current, or forthcoming, professional activities. In paragraphs 9 to 15 we set out the arrangements for neutral withdrawal. Any subsequent disciplinary action follows the Student Disciplinary Procedure and/or the Fitness to Practice/Professional Suitability Procedure, depending on the circumstances.

What is the Definition of Misconduct in relation to Professional Conduct?

- 6 The definitions of misconduct set out in the Policy on Unacceptable Behaviour apply to students following programmes leading to a professional qualification.
- 7 Misconduct includes breaches of the Code of Conduct of the relevant regulating or advisory professional body. Generally, students must conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to their particular profession.
- 8 The School offering programmes leading to a professional qualification provides guidance about professional conduct for students.

What are the arrangements for Neutral Withdrawal by the University?

- 9 The withdrawal of a student from current or forthcoming professional activities is a 'neutral' action pending the following of the appropriate disciplinary procedures.
- 10 A Pro Vice-Chancellor, Dean of Faculty, or Head of School, or a specific individual designated to act on their behalf, may initiate the immediate neutral withdrawal of a student. The neutral withdrawal can be from current or forthcoming professional activities and/or University attendance.

What are the Arrangements for the Immediate Removal of the Student in Cases of Serious or Serious Misconduct while on Professional Placement/Practice by a Senior Manager?

- 11 A senior manager in a hospital, a school, college or any other form of placement may require the immediate neutral withdrawal of the student from the placement.
- 12 Where the allegation is of serious professional misconduct requiring the student's immediate withdrawal, the senior manager reports the action, together with the reasons. The senior manager makes the report to the Head of School or designated nominee as soon as is practicable. Where the student is not an employee, the student may be subject to disciplinary action. This may be under the Student Disciplinary Procedures and/or the Fitness to Practise/Professional Suitability Procedures as appropriate.
- 13 Neutral withdrawal applies to allegations of serious professional misconduct where a student is an employee. It applies where the circumstances leading to the student's removal relate to any professional or academic work associated with a University programme. In such cases, the University will inform the employer of the decision following any disciplinary action taken by the University.

How does the Code Extend to Conduct during Attachment to Placement for Professional Placement/Practice?

- 14 The Code extends to the conduct and demeanour of all students on attachment outside University premises. This includes those on placement or undertaking professional practice.

15 The University may act if a student's conduct fails to meet the standards required by particular professions. This may include neutral withdrawal from a placement, as set out above, on the following grounds:

- (i) Where the allegation of misconduct by the student on professional placement/practice is in line with the Policy on Unacceptable Behaviour;
- (ii) where the student breaches the regulations and practice of the placement provider. Examples of such breaches, which do not constitute an exhaustive list, include:
 - a) where the student fails to comply with a code of conduct;
 - b) where the student is repeatedly absent without satisfactory notice and explanation;
 - c) where the student fails to meet standards of presentation or hygiene stipulated by the placement;
 - d) where criminal investigations affect the professional suitability of the student.
- (iii) where the student is unsuitable and/or unsafe for professional practice due to a state of mind or health. In these circumstances, the University reserves the right to refer students for Occupational Health assessment before agreeing any recommencement of study;
- (iv) where there is an allegation the student falsified documents relating to assessment, or any other matter under the jurisdiction of the University and/or placement.

When will the University seek Advice from Regulating or Advisory Professional Bodies?

16 In cases of allegations of serious misconduct, the University may seek advice and/or opinion from any recognised professional body. In any advice and/or opinion sought, the University will protect the student's identity from disclosure.

What are the Arrangements for Students Accused of Misconduct at the University Funded by Employers for Obtaining a Professional Qualification?

17 Where a student in employment is accused of misconduct in terms of the Policy on Unacceptable Behaviour, the University may inform the employer. The University may provide details if requested by the employer.

18 Where alleged misconduct occurs at a student's place of work, but not undertaking a University approved professional supervision or academic work, the University may wait the outcome of the employer's disciplinary procedures before considering the appropriateness of any further action. In cases of alleged serious misconduct, the

University may, under the Student Disciplinary Procedure, suspend the student from the programme, and/or exclude the student from University premises or facilities, for the period of the employer's investigation.

- 19 Where the student is an employee and there are criminal allegations, and the employer's disciplinary procedure initiates disciplinary action, the University may request information. This applies to cases where the employer has to disclose information because the misconduct relates to breach of a professional code of conduct. The information concerns the allegations, and outcome of any criminal and/or disciplinary proceedings. Should such misconduct be subject to Criminal Prosecution and penalty, the University may seek advice from appropriate regulatory or advisory professional bodies. This advice relates to the suitability of a student continuing any programme leading to a professional qualification. The University may decide to take action under the Student Disciplinary Procedures.