

Information for Academic Staff on Student Community Relations

This advice and information is for course directors, lecturers and tutors and should assist you in advising students regarding their responsibilities living and/or socialising off campus.

We ask that you address off-campus issues with your students through your induction processes, at lectures in the first week of the new semester and through contact with them on a day-to-day basis.

Community relations staff and Students Union Sabbatical Officers will be addressing students at some lectures and we thank you for your cooperation in advance.

It is imperative, that students are reminded of their responsibilities as members of the University of Ulster community. We have found that some students living in properties which have been reported to the University for anti-social behaviour (ASB), have encountered difficulties in their academic study. This has indicated a link, between persistent anti-social behaviour and poor academic performance. This will obviously concern academic staff.

Typical forms of ASB include late night parties, street noise and street drinking. Students should be alerted that the University considers any form of ASB unacceptable and this behaviour damages the name and reputation of the University.

However, students should be reassured that the University will assist them with any difficulties they may encounter off-campus, whether that is with landlords, other students or local residents.

The University receives many complaints regarding student misbehaviour. However, the University recognises that Students can be victims of crimes. PSNI Statistics show that Student properties are more likely to be burgled. This is due to the transient nature of student areas and easy access to student properties.

We would ask that you advise students to be mindful of their personal safety and to appropriately secure their property. Also, whilst living in local communities that students respect their neighbours, their own and other people's properties.

You should also advise students that any complaints made to the University by local residents, other students, the PSNI or council authorities will be investigated thoroughly and could result in disciplinary action. The relevant Ordinance is 2006/1 Student Discipline in the University's Charter, Statute, Ordinances and Regulations.

Community Safety Wardens are now working in the Holyland area of South Belfast. One of their remits is to address ASB. The wardens forward complaints to the

University regarding student misbehaviour. They are also there for advice and guidance on personal safety. Students can contact the Wardens day or night if they are concerned about their immediate personal safety. We would also advise Students to contact the PSNI if they have been a victim of crime.

There are other communities who have encountered ASB, including other parts of South Belfast, e.g. Stranmillis and Lisburn Road. The community relations officer investigates complaints received from the above areas. Other complaints received from residential areas near the Coleraine and Magee campuses are investigated by accommodation staff at these campuses and are available to assist you and your students with any queries.

If you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact myself. My contact details are on the University's website

Thank you for your co-operation.

Una Calvert
Community Relations Officer