

Having trouble viewing this email? View the [online version](#)



Protest encampment update

1 May 2024

Dear students,

Recently I wrote to remind all students that at the University we have a long tradition of understanding peaceful protests and freedom of expression can be important demonstrations of free speech.

Today, I reaffirm our commitment to freedom of expression and our zero tolerance for any form of racism, threats to safety, hate speech, intimidation, threatening speech, bullying or unlawful harassment, including antisemitic or anti-Muslim language or behaviour.

Expectations of conduct

Last week, the Provost, Professor Annamarie Jagose, wrote to all students and all staff to make clear the principles that would guide our response to and actions regarding the protest encampment set up on our front lawns.

We made very clear that we would not hesitate to take firm and decisive disciplinary action if a student or staff member engaged in unacceptable conduct including:

- disruption of lectures and classes, preventing other students from learning
- harassing or intimidating staff and students who may hold a different view or simply do not wish to engage in protest or debate
- preventing free movement around campus
- damage to property.

I regret to say that in recent days we've become aware of a number of alleged instances of unacceptable conduct associated with the encampment including:

- Slogans being graffitied on the walls of the Quadrangle
- A truck driver making an unauthorised delivery to the encampment spitting at and engaging in other offensive and abusive behaviour directed to University staff
- Protesters entering buildings and harassing staff
- Protesters blocking City Road and endangering the health and wellbeing of students and staff.

I want to assure you the University considers these alleged behaviours completely unacceptable and that we take violations of our [Student Charter](#) and our Code of Conduct very seriously. We are investigating these violations of our policies in the usual way, including cooperating with police investigations where alleged unacceptable conduct might have broken the law. The University is actively engaging with protesters, and we will continue to monitor the behaviour at the

encampment. From time to time, in the interests of safety, some buildings may be placed in secure mode meaning a valid student or staff card will be required to enter.

Support

- If you feel unsafe you can contact Protective Services on 02 9351 3333
- If you witness an incident please report it via our [online complaints form](#)
- If you need support you can visit our [student life, wellbeing and support webpage](#) or [talk with one of our University counsellors](#)

I encourage everyone to act with empathy for each other in these challenging times and make use of the support available to you here at the University.

Kind regards,
Mark

Mark Scott
Vice-Chancellor and President

Copyright © 2024 The University of Sydney, NSW 2006 Australia
Phone +61 2 9351 2222 ABN 15 211 513 464 CRICOS Number: 00026A

We recognise and pay respect to the Elders and communities – past, present, and emerging – of the lands that the University of Sydney's campuses stand on. For thousands of years they have shared and exchanged knowledges across innumerable generations for the benefit of all. [Learn more.](#)

Please add university.communications@sydney.edu.au to your address book or senders safe list to make sure you continue to see our emails in the future.

[Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy statement](#) | [University of Sydney](#)