



Ensuring a safe and welcoming campus

4 July 2024

Dear students,

While I am pleased we have experienced the peaceful end of the encampment on campus in recent weeks, I understand that its presence challenged us in many ways.

Ensuring our campus environment is vibrant, welcoming, and safe for all members of our community is our top priority – all students and staff should feel able to fully participate in all aspects of campus life. We continue to support the right to peaceful, orderly protest.

The [Campus Access Policy 2024](#) supports this by setting out the University's expectations for all users of our lands, specifying activities that require prior approval and those that are unacceptable at any time, and providing for the safe and orderly conduct of demonstrations. At its core, this policy upholds our commitment to free speech – while recognising we need to be able to manage our environment for the safety and security of all.

Activities requiring prior approval

To ensure our campus remains a safe and welcoming place for all members of our community, some activities will require approval at least 72 hours before the activity is planned to take place. The University aims to foster a vibrant campus and will of course continue to support and give permission to activities that contribute to our campus life, including stalls run by USU clubs and societies.

Activities requiring prior approval include:

- (a) using megaphones or amplifiers;
- (b) erecting temporary structures;
- (c) projecting words or images onto buildings or other structures;
- (d) using cooking equipment or heaters not provided by the University;
- (e) attaching materials, banners or structures to University buildings or fixtures.

Activities that are unacceptable at any time

To ensure our campus remains a safe and welcoming place for all members of our community, the following activities are not permitted:

- (a) demonstrations without the required notice;
- (b) activities requiring prior approval that have not been approved;
- (c) camping;
- (d) open fires;
- (e) possessing any weapon or explosive, including fireworks or flares;

- (f) intimidating behaviour;
- (g) harassing any user, for example:
 - (i) continuing to engage with a user after they make clear that the contact is unwanted;
 - (ii) using a megaphone or other amplifier in close proximity to a person;
- (h) dumping rubbish or other materials;
- (i) storing personal property on University lands without permission;
- (j) any activity that presents an unacceptable health or safety risk.

Demonstrations

Demonstrations by staff and students are a legitimate exercise of freedom of speech and they continue to be permitted on University lands provided they comply with the *Campus Access Policy 2024*, the [Student Charter](#), and applicable laws and regulations.

Prior approval for demonstrations is not required, but organisers must notify the University of a planned demonstration at least 72 hours before it is due to start. This allows us to make appropriate considerations in terms of safety and wellbeing of all members of our community.

Demonstrations must be held in open spaces and are not permitted inside any building.

The *Campus Access Policy 2024* does not limit the right of staff to engage in lawful protected industrial action.

As we engage with each other during times of great challenge and polarity in broader society, it's important we have the right settings in place to support healthy debate and freedom of expression while providing a safe, welcoming and lively campus for all members of our community.

Kind regards,
Mark

Professor Mark Scott
Vice-Chancellor and President

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