

CAMPUS ACCESS POLICY 2024

The Vice-Chancellor and President, as delegate of the Senate of the University of Sydney, adopts the following policy.

Dated: 27 June 2024 (commencing 28 June 2024)
Last amended: 1 July 2024 (administrative amendment)
Name: Professor Mark Scott
Position: Vice-Chancellor and President

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1 Name of policy

This is the Campus Access Policy 2024.

2 Commencement

This policy commences on 28 June 2024.

3 Policy is binding

Except to the extent that a contrary intention is expressed, this policy binds the University, staff, students, affiliates, and visitors.

4 Statement of intent

This policy:

- (a) aims to maintain a vibrant environment on University lands, which:
 - (i) is welcoming to the University community and the general public; and
 - (ii) respects academic freedom and freedom of speech;
- (b) sets out the University's expectations for users of its lands;
- (c) states the University's requirements for protecting:
 - (i) the safety of users;
 - (ii) the integrity of buildings, fixtures and grounds; and
 - (iii) continuity of University operations;
- (d) specifies activities that:
 - (i) require prior University approval; or
 - (ii) are unacceptable at any time;
- (e) provides for the safe and orderly conduct of demonstrations.

5 Application

This policy applies to any user of University lands. This includes staff, affiliates, students, and visitors.

6 Definitions

In this policy:

camping

includes:

- using any part of a building as a temporary dwelling;
- setting up or parking any structure or vehicle as a temporary dwelling. This includes tents, caravans and campervans.
- setting up beds, or using blankets, swags or sleeping bags, for camping;
- setting up other furniture without approval.

Camping does not include:

- using designated accommodation areas; or
- attending approved overnight events.



Charter	means the Charter of Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech .
demonstration	means any protest activity on University lands. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• marches;• rallies;• sit-ins or sit-downs;• any other form of public assembly.
protected industrial action	means protected industrial action which is permitted under the Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth) .
University lands	includes any land or road occupied or used by, or in connection with, the University. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• all or part of any building or structure; and• any land used or occupied in connection with a building or structure.
user	means any person who enters, or remains upon, University lands.

7 Principles

- (1) The University welcomes members of the public to use its lands, consistently with this policy.
- (2) The University is committed to respect for people, privacy, and property. This includes:
 - (a) making its lands safe places for all users; and
 - (b) preventing significant damage to buildings, fixtures or grounds.
- (3) University staff and students have rights of freedom of speech and academic freedom. This includes freedom to disagree and to protest, within the limits set out in this policy and the Charter.
- (4) The University controls access to University lands.
 - (a) Users may enter and use University lands on the conditions set out in this policy.
 - (b) The University may withdraw this permission. It may require users to leave, or to remove their property from, its lands.

Note: Users may also be liable for offences committed when on University lands. Applicable legislation includes the [Inclosed Lands Protection Act 1901](#), [Summary Offences Act 1988](#), and the [Heritage Act 1977](#).

- (5) Access to buildings, roads and grounds must always be safe and not unreasonably obstructed.
- (6) People and vehicles must always be able to move around University lands safely, without unreasonable obstruction.

Note: Obstructing the movement of people or vehicles may be an offence. See the [Summary Offences Act 1998](#)

- (7) University operations and activities must not be subjected to significant disruption. This includes teaching, research, events, and administrative activities.
- (8) Users must comply with all applicable University Rules, policies, and procedures.
 - (a) Some important policies are listed in the “Related Documents” section at the end of this policy.
 - (b) All University Rules, policies and procedures are available from the [Policy Register](#).
- (9) This policy does not limit the right of staff to engage in lawful protected industrial action.

8 Demonstrations

- (1) Demonstrations by staff and students are a legitimate exercise of freedom of speech. They are permitted on University lands provided that they comply with this policy, the Charter, and applicable laws and regulations.
- (2) Only staff and students are permitted to organise protests on University lands. Other users may participate, consistently with this policy.
- (3) Prior approval is not required, but organisers must notify the University of a planned demonstration at least 72 hours before it is due to start.
 - (a) This notice must be given by email to Operations.Controller@sydney.edu.au.
- (4) Demonstrations must be held in open spaces. They must not be held inside any building.
- (5) Demonstrations must be orderly and peaceful. They must not:
 - (a) interfere with users’ safety;
 - (b) damage property;
 - (c) unreasonably disrupt the University’s operations; or
 - (d) unreasonably impede the access or movement of people or vehicles.
- (6) People taking part in demonstrations must comply with directions given by University Protective Services staff.
- (7) Users must allow demonstrators to demonstrate without fear of retaliation or retribution.
 - (a) Other users are not permitted to:
 - (i) attempt to prevent demonstrators from expressing views they disagree with; or
 - (ii) attempt to control or manage any demonstration activity.

9 Activities that require prior approval

- (1) Users may only engage in activities listed in this clause if they have the University’s prior approval.
 - (a) Approval may be conditional. Not complying with conditions will be a breach of this policy.



- (2) Users must apply for approval:
 - (a) by email to: Operations.Controller@sydney.edu.au;
 - (b) at least 72 hours before the planned activity.
- (3) Activities that require approval are:
 - (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.
- (4) Temporary structures include:
 - (a) booths;
 - (b) stalls;
 - (c) portable toilets;
 - (d) temporary enclosures;
 - (e) mobile structures;
 - (f) electronic signage.

Note: In some cases, planning or other external approvals may also be required.

10 Unacceptable activities

- (1) Activities listed in this clause are not permitted on University lands. Users engaging in them will be breaching this policy.
- (2) Unacceptable activities are:
 - (a) demonstrations without the notice required by clause 8;
 - (b) activities listed in clause 9 which 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.

11 Personal property

- (1) Users are permitted to leave personal property in designated storage areas, indoor shared spaces or offices.
- (2) Users must not otherwise leave personal property unattended on University lands.
- (3) Personal property left unattended will be regarded as lost property and will be removed by Protective Services staff.
- (4) Owners may inquire about reclaiming lost property by contacting Protective Services. Information about the lost and found property process is available on the [University website](#).

12 Companion animals

- (1) Registered assistance animals are always permitted on University lands.
- (2) Users may bring companion animals onto University lands provided that they are always under effective control.
- (3) Dogs must be on a leash, except in specifically signposted off-leash areas.
- (4) Other companion animals must always be on a leash or in a suitable carrier.

13 Policy breaches

- (1) The Protective Services unit is responsible for the security of University lands. They are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and should be contacted about any incidents or concerns.
 - (a) Emergency contact: 9351 9333
 - (b) General contact: 9351 3487
- (2) Protective Services staff may do any of the following if they deem it necessary in the interests of safety or to manage an actual or perceived risk:
 - (a) approach any user;
 - (b) require any user to provide either:
 - (i) a staff or student identification; or
 - (ii) their name and address;
 - (c) direct any user to leave specified University lands;
 - (d) remove apparently lost property;
 - (e) remove personal property that presents a safety risk.
- (3) If a user does not comply with this policy, Protective Services staff may revoke their permission to be on University lands, and direct them to leave.
 - (a) A direction to leave may be given orally but should be followed by a written notice if practicable.
 - (b) Written notice is not required where the person has refused to provide identification.
 - (c) The notice should explain the basis for the revocation of permission.

- (4) If a user:
- (a) refuses to leave when directed to do so;
 - (b) re-enters University lands after being directed to leave; or
 - (c) commits any offence on University lands,
- Protective Services staff may detain them and deliver them to NSW Police as soon as possible.
- Note:** See s.6 [Inclosed Lands Protection Act 1901\(NSW\)](#) and s [100 Law Enforcement \(Powers and Responsibilities\) Act 2002 \(NSW\)](#).
- (5) The University may seek assistance from NSW Police where Protective Services staff may not be able to manage a potential incident.
- (a) In seeking assistance, the University will convey to the Police the University's:
 - (i) commitment to freedom of speech; and
 - (ii) intolerance of vilification and hate speech.

14 Roles and responsibilities

- (1) **Protective Services staff** are responsible for:
- (a) implementing reasonable and proportionate security measures for University lands;
 - (b) assessing risks of proposed demonstrations and implementing appropriate responses to protect safety and prevent theft, damage, or misuse of property;
 - (c) issuing directions to users consistently with this policy;
 - (d) revoking users' permission to be on University lands in appropriate circumstances;
 - (e) detaining alleged offenders for the purpose of delivering them to NSW Police.
- (2) **Staff, affiliates, and students** are responsible for:
- (a) providing University identification to Protective Services staff on request;
 - (b) following directions given by Protective Services staff;
 - (c) familiarising themselves with, and complying with, University Rules, policies, and procedures.
- (3) **All users** are responsible for:
- (a) complying with this policy; and
 - (b) following directions given by Protective Services staff.

15 Rescissions and replacements

This policy replaces the *University of Sydney (Campus Access) Rule 2009*, which was rescinded by Senate from 28 June 2024

NOTES

Campus Access Policy 2024

Date adopted: 27 June 2024
Date commenced: 28 June 2024
Date amended: 1 July 2024 (administrative amendments)
Owner: Vice-President, Operations
Review date: June 2029
Rescinded documents: *University of Sydney (Campus Access) Rule 2009*
Related documents: **External documents**

[Heritage Act 1977 \(NSW\)](#)

[Inclosed Lands Protection Act 1901 \(NSW\)](#)

[Summary Offences Act 1988 \(NSW\)](#)

[Work Health and Safety Act 2011 \(NSW\)](#)

University documents

[University of Sydney \(Student Discipline\) Rule](#)

[Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination Prevention Policy](#)

[Charter of Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom](#)

[Smoke Free Environment Policy](#)

[Staff and Affiliates Code of Conduct](#)

[Student Charter](#)

[Work Health and Safety Policy](#)

AMENDMENT HISTORY

Provision	Amendment	Commencing
9(3)(a)	“outdoors” deleted from end of clause	1 July 2024
10(2)(c)	Subclause deleted. Consequent renumbering	1 July 2024