

Code of Conduct and Guidelines on Student Events and Activities

Newcastle University Students' Union (NUSU) want all students to enjoy their time at Newcastle University and our ambition is to have a positive impact on every student at Newcastle University. In this, we wish to support the safety and wellbeing of all of our students both on- and off-campus, so all students can enjoy University life and participate in the many student led events and activities that we, and our students, value so much.

The following code of conduct gives clarity on how these events and activities should be run to safeguard the wellbeing and safety of our students:

1. Events or activities which involve tacit or explicit improper coercion or manipulation of students to their physical or mental detriment, or which compromise human dignity, have no place in the University community.
2. No member of the University community should ever feel compelled or pressurised to participate in an activity which may compromise their physical or mental wellbeing or dignity.
3. No-one should be subject to ridicule or exclusion if they decline to participate in an activity.
4. The following Activities or behaviours are forbidden on student socials:
 - Forced alcohol consumption
 - Forced substance consumption
 - Forced physical challenge or physically risky behaviour
 - Forced humiliation
 - Dangerous and / or criminal activity
 - Taking improper advantage of any students as a result of imbalance of power / position

The term 'forced' applies to any instance where an individual feels pressurised or believes that they must participate in order to be accepted in a group situation

Important considerations when leading student socials:

1. Not all students drink alcohol and the University community is an exciting and diverse population. All clubs and societies should consider the needs and preferences of all their members
2. If you are organising an event, you have a legal duty of care to those attending to plan and run events as safely as is reasonable practicable. Undertaking a risk assessment may help with this process.
3. Newcastle is a brilliant city with so much to do, make the most of it. For ideas and help, see our [Give It A Go programme](#). Our Activities Development Coordinator can also help you organise more alternative social activities.

Likely sanctions for non-compliance

1. Under the [Protocol for Investigation of behaviours prohibited on organised student socials \(including dangerous initiations\)](#), disciplinary action will be initiated by both the University and NUSU on any allegations or reports of Dangerous behaviour.
2. Actively taking part, planning, organising, encouraging participation, or failing to intervene in an event or activity could result in suspension or expulsion from the University, removal from a principal committee position or club/society membership, de-ratification of a club/society, removal from competition.

3. Under the joint investigation protocol, NUSU and University reserves the right to separately invoke disciplinary proceedings against those involved in Dangerous Behaviours. Details of the potential sanctions and the process can be found as part of the protocol.