

Prevent at Canterbury Christ Church University

Student and Apprentice Briefing

[The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015](#) is part of the Government's strategy to reduce the terrorist threat. It made **every** university act to prevent the risk of people being drawn into terrorism. It is sometimes called the [Prevent Duty](#).

This briefing provides information on the Prevent duty. It outlines what we do as a University.

What does the Government requirement?

The [Prevent Duty Guidance for Higher Education institutions in England and Wales](#) makes it clear all universities have to act.

By law, we have to demonstrate we have arrangements to safeguard people in our community from being drawn into terrorism. We are accountable for the actions we take.

What are radicalisation and extremism?

Radicalisation is how a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism. This extremism can be about political matters, such as right-wing extremism, as well as religious matters.

Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values. These values include democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. It also includes calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

You can read more about it in our [briefing note](#).

What is the University's approach?

Our approach is to respond within the spirit of our [mission and values](#). We also approach the duty as part of our safeguarding arrangements. We explain these in our [Safeguarding Statement of Policy](#).

We have a commitment to freedom of speech within the law. It is to encourage open and reasoned debate. We respect freedom of thought, conscience and religion. However, freedom of thought, conscience and religion is not absolute. We may need to intervene where necessary to protect the rights of others.

We work within our [equality and diversity policy](#). We aim to provide a fair environment where everyone receives dignity and respect. We intend to sustain a culture free from discrimination linked to any personal characteristic.

In meeting the duty, we emphasise personal wellbeing in handling incidents and reports.

We provide a [Briefing for members of staff](#), which you can read.

What are we doing to safeguard students and apprentices?

We support all our students and apprentices in their studies through our care and concern process. It means we can provide support through our [Support Services](#) and [Mental Health Support](#)

We have other extensive pastoral and support services. It includes the [Accommodation](#) Team, [personal academic tutors](#), the [Chaplaincy](#), the Security Team, and Facilities Management. We want to support any member of the University facing difficulties. We have means for referring a student and apprentice for support. It is for any issue of concern. It is not just to meet the Prevent duty. We aim to help support a wide range of individual requirements.

What do I do if I have a concern about yourself?

You may have a concern about yourself. If you do, you can speak to your [personal academic tutor](#). You can also talk to our [Support Services](#). You can contact us by

Phone: 01227 782675

Email: studentwellbeing@canterbury.ac.uk

They can advise you on what support is available inside and outside the University.

You can also use our [Report + Support](#) reporting system. You can provide contact details so we can contact you.

What we want to do is to support you.

What do I do if I am concerned about someone else?

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. It is essential not to ignore a concern about another person.

Perhaps you've noticed a behaviour change; are they becoming withdrawn, or acting differently? Maybe it's something the person has said that's worrying you. You might notice if someone is experiencing difficulties.

You can check with others who may also have noticed something to see if they share your concerns.

Sometimes you can speak to the person to see if they need help. You can suggest the person talks to the [Personal Academic Tutor](#) or our [Support Services](#).

You might not want to talk to the person. It is understandable. If you have any concern about safeguarding or wellbeing about anyone in our community, please contact our [Support Services](#).

You can contact us by

Phone: 01227 782675

Email: safeguarding@canterbury.ac.uk

You can also use our [Report + Support](#) reporting system. All staff, students, apprentices and visitors to our campus can report something. They can do this either anonymously or with contact details.

The team can offer support and guidance to the person. What we want to do is to support the person if there is a problem.

Will the University monitor my emails and web surfing?

We do not monitor your use of websites or your [emails](#).

We undertake limited filtering of websites. We block pages that threaten our IT systems. Also, we stop access to **illegal** websites relating to terrorism and sexual content. These are sites identified by the [Counter-Terrorism Internet Referral Unit \(CTIRU\)](#) and the [Internet Watch Foundation \(IWF\)](#). We keep our filtering policy under review.

We have [Core Regulations for the use of IT](#). Only if there is a breach of the Core Regulations will we investigate. Where appropriate, we will take action and contact the person concerned.

What is the University position on academic freedom, freedom of speech and external speakers?

We have a policy on external speakers to support freedom of speech within the law. It means we have appropriate [procedures for organising events](#). Even when a speaker talks on a controversial topic, we support freedom of speech within the law. Our procedure integrates with the Students' Union policy.

We have processes for [research governance and ethics](#). It protects researchers undertaking sensitive research of all kinds.

We guarantee [academic freedom](#) within the law for members of staff in our Staff Code.

How is the equality and diversity dimension taken into account?

We appreciate the [equality](#) dimensions. We recognise concerns about stereotyping. Much depends on what individual members of staff do when working with students and apprentices.

We provide staff with training. This training includes conscious and unconscious bias and the need to take a holistic approach to the person.

What are the arrangements for the oversight of the Prevent duty?

The [Office for Students](#) (OfS) monitors our compliance with the [Prevent duty](#). OfS must make a report to Government on what all universities do to meet the obligation.

What do you think? We would like to hear from you on our approach.

We engage in discussions with the Students' Union.

We would also like to hear your views on how we meet the Prevent Duty.

You can send your comments at any time to safeguarding@canterbury.ac.uk

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