



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
Centre for Open Learning

COL Pre-University Summer School Student Code of Conduct

December 2025

If you require this document in an alternative format (such as large print, plain text, coloured background, etc.) please contact col.admissions@ed.ac.uk.

Purpose and scope

At the Centre for Open Learning (COL), we hope that every Pre-University Summer School student has a safe and enjoyable time in Edinburgh, and gains the opportunity to develop their academic skills and have an educational experience in our vibrant community. This can only be achieved within a framework of mutual trust, respect and confidence between students and staff, and where everyone's rights are observed, regardless of their background and circumstances.

This Code of Conduct sets out:

- The standards of behaviour we expect from students
- What students can expect and our ground rules
- What is considered student misconduct
- Consequences resulting from student misconduct
- How to report issues and concerns
- Key contacts

This Code of Conduct applies to all Pre-University Summer School students, and encompasses:

- Activities which take place on the University of Edinburgh campus including areas such as classrooms, accommodation, catering facilities, libraries, student unions, labs and sports facilities
- All educational and social activities
- Activities and/or communications which take place online

- Arrival and departure. COL reserves the right to investigate instances of student misconduct which take place out of normal class time, or following the end of the Pre-University Summer School
- Any activity not covered by the above points which is believed to adversely affect the safety, interests or reputation of COL and the University of Edinburgh, its students and staff

Acceptance onto the Pre-University Summer School is conditional on both the attending student and their guardian agreeing to all the terms within this Code of Conduct. This is vital in enabling us to create a welcoming and safe experience for all involved, ensuring that all parties are clear of our expectations of one another, and the rules we shall enforce.

Definitions

Young Person means any person aged 16-18 years.

Student means any young person participating in COL's Pre-University Summer School.

Guardian means the parent or carer of a young person.

Staff means any COL staff member responsible for supporting or delivering elements of the Pre-University Summer School.

Safeguarding means the action taken to promote the welfare of young people and protect them from harm.

Standards of behaviour

All students are required to conduct themselves in a responsible and respectful manner at all times during scheduled activities and planned free time, whether in-person or online, towards other students, members of staff and any members of the general public whom they encounter. The following list, whilst not exhaustive, sets out the key standards of behaviour we expect from students:

- Students must respect the rights and views of others
- Students must not use offensive, demeaning or stereotyping language
- Students must not engage in offensive, bullying or exclusionary behaviour
- Students must ensure their behaviour does not affect the safety, interests or reputation of COL and the University of Edinburgh, its students and staff

- Students must ensure they are contactable at all times, and respond to communications from staff whether by email, phone call, text message or social media tools, as applicable
- Students must not browse, download or upload any materials online that could be considered offensive or illegal
- Students must not give out their, or anyone else's, personal information online (e.g. names, phone numbers, email or postal addresses, passwords, etc)
- Students must not meet anyone in-person who they have met online
- Students must follow the instructions of staff at all times
- Students must play their part in fostering a friendly and inclusive community during COL's Pre-University Summer School

In addition, students are required to observe and follow the University of Edinburgh's [Learner Conduct Expectations](#), [Dignity and Respect Policy](#), and [Online Etiquette Guidelines](#).

Setting expectations and ground rules

To avoid misunderstandings, we want to be clear about what students can expect whilst attending the Pre-University Summer School and set ground rules about what students are and are not allowed to do.

Resident Assistants

Resident Assistants will be staying with students at University of Edinburgh accommodation, for the entirety of the Pre-University Summer School.

Our Resident Assistants are there to:

- Support students, monitor their wellbeing and respond to any issues or concerns
- Assist with student arrivals and departures
- Monitor student attendance and engagement
- Facilitate student bonding and ice-breaker activities
- Check-in with students during mealtimes
- Accompany students to the teaching campus on the first day of class
- Accompany students on social activities, as required
- Enforce curfew and student adherence to this Code of Conduct
- Implement disciplinary measures, as required
- Report all issues and concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and/or Deputy Safeguarding Lead(s) as soon as possible and if they have any concerns whatsoever.

Our Resident Assistants are not there to:

- Act as personal assistants to students and run errands for them
- Handle and transport luggage for students
- Organise and/or make personal bookings for students
- Coordinate mail and/or parcels for students
- Clean up after students
- Take on the role of the student's guardian
- Provide direct medical assistance, acquire and/or administer medication to students

Resident Assistants must be respected and listened to at all times. They are the first point of contact for any student who is experiencing issues related to their health, safety and/or wellbeing.

Communication with Resident Assistants and Pre-University Summer School Staff

During the Pre-University Summer School, our Resident Assistants and staff will use various means to keep in touch with students to communicate important updates and instructions, and to check on wellbeing. This may include:

- Contacting students through the course Virtual Learning Environment, Canvas
- Contacting students by text message or WhatsApp
- Contacting students by telephone call
- Including students in Pre-University Summer School WhatsApp channels, for quick and convenient dissemination of information

As such, all students will be required to have a functional mobile/cell phone or smartphone with them during the Pre-University Summer School, which can send and receive phone calls and messages. Providing us with the correct contact number is essential, thank you for your assistance with this.

Arrival and departure

Students must arrive and depart on the dates we specify, which will require them and/or their guardian to carefully plan flights and any other transport required. We cannot amend Pre-University Summer School dates, or University of Edinburgh accommodation dates. No exceptions can be made.

Please note that we are unable to provide arrival or departure transfers for students, or organise transfers on their behalf. It is the responsibility of students and/or their guardian to ensure that appropriate transport arrangements are in place, as required.

University accommodation

We provide standard University of Edinburgh accommodation as part of the Pre-University Summer School fee. This enables us to safeguard students whilst they are studying with us. All students will be located at the same accommodation campus, grouped together by gender, and will be supervised by our on-site Resident Assistants. Students will have their own private bedroom, with shared bathroom facilities.

It is a condition of placement on the Pre-University Summer School that students must reside in the provided University of Edinburgh accommodation. They will not be allowed to reside in private accommodation or with family/friends. No exceptions can be made.

Curfew

There is a strict 23:00 (11pm) curfew in place, by which time all students must have returned to their own bedroom and stay there for the night in order to rest and ensure rest of others. Access to communal areas or being in another student's bedroom after this time is not permitted. Our Resident Assistants will conduct daily checks to enforce this.

Communal spaces

Students will have the use of communal spaces whilst staying at their University of Edinburgh accommodation, enabling them to socialise with each other. Students are responsible for keeping these spaces clean and tidy, and they must always be respectful of other accommodation residents and not make excessive noise or cause disruption. Students are not permitted to be in communal spaces after 23:00 (11pm).

Meals

Limited meals are provided for students at their University of Edinburgh accommodation as part of the Pre-University Summer School fee. Breakfast and dinner will be available Monday to Friday, with brunch and dinner available on Saturdays and Sundays. Meals are typically offered as set menu options, and students will have a variety of foods to choose from. Most dietary requirements can be catered for (vegetarian, vegan, gluten free and dairy free). Unfortunately, dedicated kosher and halal options are not available. [Please visit the residential catering website for more details](#). Exact menus and mealtime schedules will be confirmed upon accommodation check-in.

We are unable to provide alternative meal arrangements, and students will be responsible for purchasing their own lunch and snacks each day as this is not included in the Pre-University Summer School fee. Cooking is not permitted in bedrooms, however the accommodation block may have communal spaces with access to a fridge, kettle, toaster and microwave for snack preparation.

Educational and social activities

A variety of educational and social activities will be provided as part of the Pre-University Summer School fee. These activities enhance learning through the exploration of Scottish culture, and help to build an engaging community experience.

These activities are not optional extras, and all learners are expected to attend and fully participate in them. Reasonable adjustments will be made to facilitate participation where required.

Lanyards

Upon check-in at University accommodation, all students will be provided with a lanyard which they must always keep on their person. The lanyards will help our Pre-University Summer School staff to easily identify students, and will also serve as their meal card, providing access to the accommodation's on-site restaurant.

Planned free time

We recognise that students will want and need some free time to relax, explore Edinburgh, go shopping, bond with new friends, etc. As such, all students will have planned free time built into their Pre-University Summer School timetable, though are reminded that the expectations outlined in this document continue to apply.

During planned free time, students can pursue their own activities in Edinburgh. However, if they intend to leave their University of Edinburgh accommodation, prior to leaving, they must inform our Resident Assistants where they will be, who they will be with, and ensure they are contactable at all times. Students should remain in groups of at least 2 people during planned free time and must return to their University of Edinburgh accommodation by 18:00 (6pm).

To help us keep people safe and supported, students are not permitted to have unplanned free time, such as avoiding classes or educational and social activities, to 'do their own thing'.

Travelling outside Edinburgh

To keep everyone safe, under no circumstances are students permitted to travel outside of Edinburgh, during planned free time or otherwise, unless to attend a supervised educational or social activity that we have organised. No exceptions can be made unless exceptional circumstances have arisen and permission has been expressly granted by the Designated Safeguarding Lead and/or Deputy Safeguarding Lead(s).

Evening downtime

Students must remain at their University of Edinburgh accommodation in the evenings, unless they are attending a supervised educational or social activity that we have organised. Students

can enjoy using communal spaces on-site, participate in any activities our Resident Assistants have arranged, or relax in their bedrooms. No exceptions can be made unless exceptional circumstances have arisen and permission has been expressly granted by the Designated Safeguarding Lead and/or Deputy Safeguarding Lead(s).

Exceptional circumstances

We recognise that circumstances can change and that there may be reasons why someone cannot attend all planned activities while they are with us. Information will be provided for students during the induction session on how to report absence due to illness. If they are required to be absent from planned activities for other reasons the guardian is requested to contact us, in writing to the safeguarding email address (col.safeguarding@ed.ac.uk), at the earliest opportunity to allow this request to be considered by the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will confirm the decision in writing to the guardian within 48hrs. Students are expected to attend until such time as permission is granted for their absence.

Being in other students' bedrooms

Students are allowed to be in each other's bedrooms until 23:00 (11pm), but only if they have obtained consent to do so from their fellow students. Under no circumstances are students allowed to be in someone else's bedroom after the 23:00 (11pm) curfew. Our Resident Assistants will conduct daily checks to enforce this and no exceptions can be made.

Alcohol

All students on the Pre-University Summer School, irrespective of their age, are not permitted to obtain, attempt to obtain, have in their possession, distribute, or consume alcohol under any circumstances, whether on University premises or otherwise.

Smoking and vaping

Smoking and vaping is not permitted in any indoor space, at any time. It is illegal in Scotland for anyone under the age of 18 to attempt to obtain tobacco or vaping products, and this is not allowed under any circumstances.

Support needs, medical disclosures and dietary requirements

During the application process for the Pre-University Summer School, we ask all students to let us know about any:

Support Needs

This may include, but is not limited to:

- Physical disabilities (mobility issues, wheelchair user, sight impairment, hearing impairment, etc)
- Mental health issues (anxiety, depression, etc)
- Learning disabilities (dyslexia, dyspraxia, etc)
- Neurodiversity (ADHD, autism, etc)

Medical Disclosures

This may include, but is not limited to:

- Medical allergies (anaphylaxis, etc)
- Medication (drugs for physical or mental health conditions such as insulin, emergency treatments you must carry on you at all times such as an EpiPen, etc)

Dietary Requirements

This may include, but is not limited to:

- Vegan diet
- Vegetarian diet
- Pescatarian diet
- Religious/Faith based diet (halal, kosher, etc)
- Food allergies and intolerances (gluten free, dairy free, nut allergies, seafood allergies, etc)

By informing us of these things, if applicable, we can ensure that reasonable support is in place prior to arrival, enabling participation in the Pre-University Summer School to be as safe and enjoyable as possible. It will not negatively affect a student's application, and all information will be treated respectfully and in confidence.

The Centre for Open Learning and our Pre-University Summer School staff accept no liability or responsibility for any issues that may arise resulting from a failure to disclose support needs, important medical information or dietary requirements.

Healthcare and Student Responsibilities

In the event of any unexpected healthcare issues during the Pre-University Summer School, staff who are trained in basic first aid are present at University accommodation and on teaching campuses, however please be aware that there are no dedicated medical professionals or facilities.

Minor health issues

From time to time, everyone can experience minor health issues. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Common ailments, such as the cold virus
- Headaches
- Fatigue
- Common allergies, such as pollen / hay fever
- Minor injuries, such as cuts and scrapes

Any student who experiences minor health issues may be encouraged to rest to help them recuperate, take any appropriate medications, and / or be attended to by a first aider if appropriate.

Advice and over the counter medications are available from local pharmacies, which students may be directed to as required. Students may also be signposted to the UK's National Health Service (NHS) 24-hour telephone line for guidance on minor health issues.

Obtaining and using medication

First aiders, and Pre-University Summer School staff (including Resident Assistants) are not allowed to purchase, or administer any medications to students. It is the responsibility of students to obtain any medication they require, and to administer it themselves.

It is especially important that any student who is undergoing a course of treatment and / or prescription medication (i.e. to help manage an ongoing health condition) brings a full supply of their medication with them, which will at least last the duration of their stay in Edinburgh.

Serious health issues

In the unlikely event of a serious medical issue occurring, students will be referred to hospital. This may involve staff accompanying them to accident and emergency facilities, or ambulance assistance being requested from the UK's emergency services.

Misconduct

We take misconduct very seriously and will investigate any incidents where a student breaches this Code of Conduct, whether in-person or online. The following list, whilst not exhaustive, sets out examples of what would be considered misconduct:

- Being absent without leave (this includes leaving Edinburgh without permission, or failing to return to University of Edinburgh accommodation when instructed to do so)
- Leaving University of Edinburgh accommodation after curfew
- Failing to respond to communications from staff and/or comply with their instructions
- Engaging in an act that will, or is likely to, disrupt teaching, study, administrative work or any educational or social activity
- Behaving in a way that is likely to endanger someone's safety
- Damaging, defacing, stealing or misappropriating the property of the University of Edinburgh, our summer school partners, or of any other person
- Expressing violent, indecent, disorderly, threatening, abusive or offensive behaviour or language (whether expressed orally, in writing or electronically)
- Fraud, deceit, falsification of documents or dishonest behaviour in relation to the Pre-University Summer School, its staff or any other person
- Bullying, harassing, victimising or discriminating against any person on the grounds of age, disability, race, ethnic or national origin, religion or beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, colour or socio-economic background
- Failing to comply with University of Edinburgh rules, regulations or policies
- Breaking the conditions of the University of Edinburgh accommodation lease
- Making unwarranted, false, frivolous, malicious or vexatious complaints against staff or any other person
- Obtaining, attempting to obtain, possessing, distributing or consuming alcohol, whether on University of Edinburgh premises or otherwise
- Obtaining, attempting to obtain, possessing, distributing or consuming illegal substances
- Smoking or vaping in indoor spaces, including University of Edinburgh accommodation

Disciplinary action resulting from misconduct

In the event of misconduct, the following process will be followed by staff:

Minor issues

If the issue is considered to be minor, and it can be resolved informally and amicably, it will be. Our Resident Assistants, teachers or social activity leaders will normally decide if this is the best course of action, and they will consult with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and/or Deputy Safeguarding Lead(s) as appropriate.

Serious and/or repeated issues

If the issue is considered serious and/or there are repeated incidents, the Designated Safeguarding Lead and/or Deputy Safeguarding Lead(s) will immediately be informed and a formal investigation will take place.

Actions we will take

Depending on the nature of the misconduct, any combination of the following actions may be taken in any order:

- The student is given a written warning
- The student is required to make good, in whole or in part, the cost of any damage caused to another party
- The student is required to issue an apology to a wronged party
- The student's guardian is notified
- University of Edinburgh security is notified
- The police are notified
- The student is asked to leave the Pre-University Summer School and their University of Edinburgh accommodation

For the avoidance of doubt, where we have significant concerns about misconduct, we will immediately contact the student's guardian. We reserve the right to remove any student from the Pre-University Summer School, at our sole discretion and at any time, if we deem it necessary to ensure the safety and wellbeing of other people.

Reporting issues and concerns

Students who wish to raise any issues or concerns can do so without concern for repercussions by:

- Speaking with our Resident Assistants in the first instance. They will listen to concerns impartially and respect the need for sensitivity and discretion. If they deem it necessary, they will consult with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and/or the Deputy Safeguarding Lead(s)
- Speaking to another member of staff, such as a teacher
- Contacting the Designated Safeguarding Lead and/or the Deputy Safeguarding Lead(s)

Depending on the seriousness of the situation, statutory agencies such as the police and/or local authority services may be notified.

Key contacts

Our Resident Assistants are the first port of call for any student who has an issue or concern.

We also have appointed senior members of staff who will be contacted in the event of a serious issue or concern and/or where someone doesn't feel comfortable discussing the matter with our Resident Assistants:

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Head of the Centre for Open Learning

Deputy Safeguarding Leads:

- Director of Open Studies
- Head of Student and Academic Services

Email: col.safeguarding@ed.ac.uk

Office: Paterson's Land, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8AQ

Telephone numbers for our Resident Assistants will be provided 1 week prior to the Pre-University Summer School start date.