



House Rules and Code of Conduct for the grounds and buildings of the University of Amsterdam (UvA)

Adopted by decision number @@ of the Executive Board of @@ 2024, with the consent of the CSR and COR obtained on @@ 2025 and @@ 2025 respectively, taking effect on @@ 2025.

Introduction

The UvA is committed to making it as attractive as possible to work and study at the UvA. The UvA's mission contributes to this: 'We are an innovative, committed and independent university that is working towards a sustainable and prosperous future. (...) We promote an open and curious attitude. We want to equip students not only with knowledge, but also with the skills to navigate a dynamic world. This requires diversity of perspective, agility and resilience. Students have the freedom to ask questions and engage in debate. We do this with respect for the contribution, background and beliefs of each and every individual, so that everyone feels welcome and safe.'

To facilitate a pleasant studying and working environment and opportunities for discussion and debate, with respect for the fundamental rights of every person, we need house rules that students, staff and visitors can rely on. The House Rules and Code of Conduct set out below and the appended Rules for Demonstrations and Protests give substance to these requirements.

Scope

These House Rules and Code of Conduct for the grounds and buildings of the University of Amsterdam ('House Rules and Code of Conduct') relate to behaviour that has an impact on the smooth running of affairs in all buildings, facilities and grounds owned or used by the UvA, as established each year in the buildings registry of the UvA's Space Utilisation Regulations. The UvA's digital environments (website, Canvas, email) are also subject to the House Rules and Code of Conduct, where applicable. In some places, these House Rules and Code of Conduct refer to established rules and policies. A complete list of these rules and policies will be displayed with the House Rules and Code of Conduct on the website.

House Rules and Code of Conduct

1.1 General

Every person present in the buildings or on the grounds of the UvA is expected to:

- act in accordance with these House Rules and Code of Conduct and other internal UvA rules (see the list of internal rules of order and policies);
- respect others when exchanging views and contribute to a socially safe environment in which any form of undesirable behaviour is unacceptable;
- hold others to account for undesirable behaviour (for more information on undesirable behaviour, see the UvA Code of Conduct in the list of internal rules of order and policies);
- refrain from disrupting public order, safety, teaching, patient care, research, valorisation and business operations on campus or behaving in a way that could cause physical injury to persons or damage to property;

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- make every effort to prevent unlawful acts or the incitement of unlawful acts without endangering their own safety, and provide assistance to the best of their ability and/or alert the UvA Central Control Room if the safety of persons is at risk.

Where relevant, the House Rules and Code of Conduct also apply when students and staff carry out activities under the authority of the UvA outside the campus and/or in the buildings of third parties.

1.2 Use of buildings and facilities

The grounds, the buildings and the spaces and facilities in or related to the buildings provided for the students, staff and guests of the UvA community are intended for teaching, learning, research, valorisation and all associated activities. Staying overnight in the grounds, the buildings or the spaces and facilities in or related to those buildings, or any other improper use, is not permitted.

1.3 Proof of identity

For the purpose of checking for an unauthorised stay on and/or improper use of the buildings, as referred to under 1.2, and/or for security reasons, security staff may ask for proof of identity. A valid staff ID card, student ID card or visitor's card is required in the working and learning areas of the buildings. In the other areas, a proof of identity valid in the Netherlands will also be accepted. In the context of tests and examinations, students must be able to show both a student ID card and other proof of identity.

1.4 Dissemination of information

The distribution of flyers, posters and other informational material of a non-commercial nature inside the buildings is permitted, but the organisers are expected to take sustainability considerations into account (e.g. is a physical poster or flyer necessary, or could the cause be advertised digitally?). See the list of internal rules of order and policies for further details.

Messages communicated by means of posters and other informational material can be placed on special notice boards designated for that purpose. Given the limited space available on those boards, messages concerning teaching, research and valorisation-related subjects have priority. For fire safety reasons and for the orderly conduct of teaching and research, posters/informational material will be removed from other places.

Informational material that obviously incites hatred or violence or is obviously threatening, intimidating or discriminatory to staff and/or students will be removed.

1.5 Events and room bookings

The spaces on the campus are primarily intended for teaching, research and valorisation-related activities. Events are permitted if there is a relationship with teaching, research or valorisation. Contact the Facility Services event coordinator in advance.

Meetings and gatherings that do not include teaching, research and valorisation-related activities include the following:

- Religious gatherings where there is no intention to hold an academic debate or open dialogue. This does not include meetings organised or facilitated with the involvement of the Diversity Officer.
- Political party meetings.
- Meetings that could compete with UvA teaching programmes.
- Gatherings with a commercial purpose.

Affiliated and external parties can only request rooms through the Teaching Logistics Office using the email address servicedesk-fs@uva.nl. In the assessment of a request, the UvA's interests are paramount at all times.

The following activities require registration at servicedesk-fs@uva.nl:

- Holding a demonstration or protest – see the appendix.
- Public speeches or charity collections.

The sale of goods (including food) in the UvA's buildings or grounds requires prior permission. This can be obtained through a written application to servicedesk-fs@uva.nl.

1.6 Face-covering clothing

Pursuant to the Face-Covering Clothing (Partial Ban) Act (*Wet gedeeltelijk verbod gezichtsbedekkende kleding*), it is not permitted to wear clothing in UvA buildings or grounds that either completely covers the face, covers it in such a way that only the eyes are uncovered, or makes the face unrecognisable, unless this is necessary for medical, safety, professional or sports reasons, or for participation in a festive or cultural activity.

1.7 Clean and tidy

For the sake of liveability, UvA buildings, facilities, rooms and grounds should be left clean and tidy after use. Vehicles and transport equipment must be parked or stored in the designated areas. Unused vehicles and transport equipment left in a rack, compartment or parking facility for a long time may be removed.

1.8 Fire safety

For everyone's safety, open flames and heat sources that can cause fire or smoke are not permitted. It is important that escape routes and exits (particularly emergency exits) are kept clear at all times. The use of emergency doors, fire alarms and fire extinguishers is permitted only in emergency situations. In the event of an evacuation, everyone must leave the building. Bringing and installing your own or non-certified electrical appliances – such as kettles, coffee makers and toasted sandwich makers – in UvA buildings is not permitted. The charging of bicycle batteries is permitted only in the designated places in the bicycle parking facility or in a facility provided for that purpose (battery charging station).

1.9 Pets and means of transport

Pets and means of transport are not permitted inside the buildings. The exceptions are dogs accompanying persons with disabilities, such as assistance dogs, and means of transport for persons with disabilities.



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1.10 Found objects

Found objects should be handed in to reception desks and/or service desks. They will be registered on the iLost website.

1.11 Reporting incidents

Urgent incidents and emergency or unsafe situations may be reported by phone to the UvA Central Control Room using the emergency number: +31 (0)20 525 2222. This number can be used day or night, seven days a week. If the situation is not urgent, a report can be made online or by calling the UvA Central Control Room on +31 (0)20 525 6260.

1.12 Surveillance cameras

Surveillance cameras may be used for safety reasons, specifically building security and surveillance. The conditions governing the use of cameras and the reading and storage of camera data are set out in separate regulations. See the list of internal rules of order and policies.

APPENDIX

Rules for Demonstrations and Protests on UvA grounds and inside UvA buildings

Introduction

The UvA is a public institution where fundamental rights are respected. The same applies to the right to demonstrate, within the limits set by Dutch law. The UvA has a statutory duty to provide teaching, research and valorisation. The UvA also has a responsibility to ensure order and the safety of staff, students and visitors on its grounds and in its buildings. More specifically, the UvA has a responsibility to ensure that students and staff can engage in teaching activities, conduct research and carry out valorisation activities in an appropriate manner.

The UvA respects the principle that protesters are free to choose the time, place and form of their protest. This freedom is limited by the duty to protect the legitimate interests of others (especially students and staff), particularly inside UvA buildings.

1.1 Conditions for demonstrations and protests

The following conditions apply to demonstrations and/or protests.

1. Protesters must observe the limitations of the Dutch Criminal Code, explicitly including the ban on inciting hatred, violence or discrimination and the ban on causing damage to the buildings and/or grounds.
2. The demonstration or protest must be peaceful. Occupying (taking temporary possession by way of protest) or barricading a building does not count as a peaceful demonstration or protest and is not permitted.
3. Disturbing or disrupting lectures and examinations is not permitted. Patient care must also not be disrupted in any way. In addition, the basic principle is that research activities and the work of staff members must be able to continue even during a demonstration or protest.
4. During demonstrations and protests, the safety of everyone at the UvA (including on UvA grounds and on the campus as a whole) must be ensured. To preserve the safety of everyone at the institution (see also Article 1.8 of the House Rules and Code of Conduct: Fire safety) and to keep protests peaceful, the following are not permitted during any demonstration or protest:
 - Staying overnight on UvA grounds or in UvA buildings.
 - Opening emergency exits without good reason. - Obstructing or blocking escape routes, entrances or exits.
5. During a demonstration or protest, the organisers must always be present, able to be identified by the university representative and able to be approached to discuss the conduct of the demonstration or protest.

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1.2 Registration of demonstrations and protests

Under Section 4 of the Public Assemblies Act (*Wet openbare manifestaties*) and the associated Articles 2.32 and 2.33 of the Amsterdam General Municipal Bylaw, the mayor must be notified in writing at least 24 hours in advance of demonstrations or protests in a public place, such as a street in the vicinity of a UvA building or grounds.

Demonstrations or protests in UvA buildings or on UvA grounds must be registered with the university by a student or staff member at least 48 hours prior to the protest (by emailing servicedesk-fs@uva.nl) so that the safe conduct of the protest can be ensured and arrangements can be made for how the demonstration or protest will take place. During the registration process, one or more organisers who will act as contact persons must be specified. Given the mayor's responsibility for maintaining public order in the parts of the UvA open to the general public, the mayor will be notified of the registration. See Section 8 of the Public Assemblies Act.

1.3 Possible courses of action for the UvA

1. The Executive Board or its representative, such as a faculty dean, will consult with the participants or their representative for the purpose of accommodating the demonstration or protest under the rules set out in this guideline.
2. If the Executive Board has a well-founded suspicion in advance that a protest or demonstration may lead to a breach of these rules, in particular disorder or unsafe situations, the Executive Board will consult with the organisers, directly or through representatives, so that appropriate measures may be taken.
3. If teaching, research or other activities on campus are in danger of being disrupted, the university representative may, in consultation with the organisers, designate an alternative location to continue the demonstration or protest, provided it is and remains peaceful.
4. In the event of disorder and/or a breach of these rules, a university representative may order participants in the demonstration or protest to leave the building or grounds. This message will be repeated multiple times, in Dutch and in English. In extreme cases, the representative will ban the demonstration or protest.
5. In the event of disorder, as referred to in points 2-4 above, the competent authority (i.e. the mayor) may be notified by or on behalf of the Executive Board.
6. In the event of suspected lawbreaking, a report may be made to the police by or on behalf of the Executive Board and/or a sanction may be imposed pursuant to Section 7.57h of the Higher Education and Research Act.

LIST OF INTERNAL RULES OF ORDER AND POLICIES

Subject	Explanation
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House rules and demonstrations	The House Rules and Code of Conduct provide a general framework of the rules applicable in UvA buildings and on UvA grounds, including the conditions for demonstrations.
Desirable and undesirable behaviour	The Code of Conduct sets out how we should treat each other and what to do if undesirable behaviour occurs.
Denial of access to buildings	In the event of a breach of the House Rules and Code of Conduct consisting of disruption, nuisance or lawbreaking, any person may be denied access to certain university buildings and grounds or the use of some or all university facilities. See the Access to University Buildings Regulations .
Smoke-free	The UvA has smoke-free grounds and buildings .
Alcohol use	The UvA has an Alcohol Policy .
Making recordings and sharing on social media	The UvA must be a safe environment for everyone. For this reason, we have established clear principles with regard to taking photographs and distributing images of other people.
Dissemination of information	See Filming, photos and flyers at UvA locations for the principles that apply.
Events and room bookings	To organise events and book rooms, see Event coordination (facility support) .
ICT Code of Conduct	See the Rules for the responsible use of ICT facilities by staff and the Rules for the responsible use of ICT facilities by students .
Conditions for the use of surveillance cameras	The use of surveillance cameras and the retention of the resulting images is subject to the Regulations for Camera Surveillance .

Explanation

Legal basis for the House Rules and Code of Conduct and the UvA's responsibility

The University of Amsterdam (UvA) has a statutory duty to provide teaching, research and valorisation; see Section 1.3 of the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW).

This requires a safe working, studying and research environment for students, staff and guests. The Executive Board has the authority to manage the university, including its buildings (Section 9.2 WHW). More specifically, under Section 7.57h WHW, the Executive Board may make rules (house rules) regarding the smooth running of affairs in the institution's buildings and grounds. These regulations (house rules) allow us to ensure a safe working, studying and research environment, so

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that statutory duties can continue uninterrupted. Moreover, as part of its duty as the private-law owner of the buildings and grounds, the UvA has its own responsibility to ensure order and safety.

The House Rules and Code of Conduct help to fulfil the UvA's responsibility to ensure a safe environment for study, work and research. Placing the rules, including the appendix, on the website provides clarity in advance on what is permitted (subject to certain conditions) and what is not. Section 7.57h WHW not only provides for the making of such rules, but also for the encouraging of compliance by students if they are breached.

In this regard, the measures listed in this section include temporary denial of access to university buildings and grounds and temporary termination of a student's enrolment. In cases involving serious disruption, these measures may be imposed permanently following a warning. Any measure must comply with the principles of administrative law. This means that a measure must be proportionate, i.e. in line with the seriousness of the offence.

The House Rules and Code of Conduct also apply to staff. Like students, staff must be able to have confidence that the rules are being followed. The difference is that for staff, the tools to encourage compliance are provided for by employment law, rather than the WHW.

Practical implementation of the House Rules and Code of Conduct

The appendix to the House Rules and Code of Conduct lists a number of stand-alone regulations. These regulations specify in detail what is and is not permitted in relation to the relevant subject.

Importantly, the fundamental principle of the House Rules and Code of Conduct is that people in UvA buildings and on campus treat each other respectfully, both in normal use and during special activities such as events. After all, the buildings and grounds of the UvA are intended for teaching, research and valorisation. Improper use and staying overnight are therefore not permitted. Proof of identity may be required in the buildings for security reasons and/or to prevent any unauthorised stays in the buildings. It may also be necessary to use surveillance cameras for safety reasons. The use of surveillance cameras is regulated separately; see the list of internal rules of order and policies.

For fire safety reasons, posters and other informational materials cannot just be hung and placed everywhere. The designated notice boards may be used for this purpose, but space is limited, so priority will be given to teaching and research-related purposes. In terms of content, the fundamental right to freedom of expression is restricted only on the basis of the Dutch Criminal Code. This means that informational material inciting hatred, violence and/or discrimination will be removed. Incidentally, commercial information is not covered by constitutional protection.

Events and the use of rooms must be applied for in advance. As the owner and manager of the buildings with responsibilities under the WHW, the UvA takes the line that its spaces are primarily intended for teaching, research and valorisation.

Fundamental rights and duties and the right to education

The UvA is bound by public-law norms, including fundamental rights. In terms of the House Rules and Code of Conduct, this mainly concerns the freedom of assembly and freedom to demonstrate (the 'right to demonstrate') enshrined in Article 9 of the Constitution and Article 11 of the ECHR, and freedom of expression under Article 7 of the Constitution and Article 10 of the ECHR. Fundamental rights are not absolute or unrestricted.

Restrictions on fundamental rights must have a legal basis, such as the Dutch Criminal Code (incitement to hatred, discrimination, disturbing the peace). This legal basis may also derive from the WHW, if the restrictions concern the safeguarding and protection of teaching, research or valorisation for the benefit of students and staff. In addition, the Executive Board's management role and position as owner mean that restrictions can be imposed to maintain order and safety in the buildings and grounds. The Executive Board uses that statutory power in accordance with constitutional rules, such as the right to demonstrate.

In terms of restrictions on the right to demonstrate, Article 11 of the ECHR mandates that the restrictions must be proportionate ('necessary in a democratic society') in order to protect a list of interests, including the safety of individuals, the prevention of disorder and criminal offences, and the rights of others. Combating and preventing disorder and protecting health are mentioned in the Constitution and included in the Public Assemblies Act.

In terms of grounds for restrictions, 'the rights of others' and 'preventing/combating disorder' include the legitimate right of students to sit examinations and attend lectures undisturbed and the legitimate right of staff to perform or facilitate the statutory duties set out in the WHW. As indicated, the Executive Board also has a special responsibility as the owner of the grounds and buildings to safeguard these rights.

The fundamental rights and restrictions described above are reflected in the practical implementation of the House Rules and Code of Conduct discussed below.

Demonstrations and protests

The UvA respects the right to demonstrate. There are also restrictions on this right. Students must be able to study, attend classes and sit tests and examinations without disruption, staff must be able to continue teaching and conducting research, and valorisation must remain possible. As the owner of the grounds and buildings, the Executive Board has a special responsibility to safeguard these rights and ensure order and safety.

It follows that demonstrations must be peaceful, and barricading and occupying UvA buildings is not permitted. The same applies to the ban on staying overnight in UvA buildings. Staying overnight in the grounds is not permitted either.

In terms of the proportionality requirement, it is implicit in the courses of action mentioned in the step-by-step plan in Article 1.3 and the less drastic options for action listed therein that this requirement will be met. The registration of a demonstration or protest should also be seen in this context (Article 1.2). It is intended as a way to enable the safe conduct of the demonstration, not as an obstacle to prevent the demonstration.

The Public Assemblies Act distinguishes between public and non-public spaces. Demonstrations in a public space should be registered with the mayor. Private spaces (not open to the public) are not subject to the Public Assemblies Act. In these private spaces, the Executive Board has the authority to maintain order, while in public spaces and spaces open to the public, that authority primarily lies with the mayor.

