

Prevent Policy

1. SCOPE AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 Health Sciences University is committed to protecting freedom of speech and academic freedom together with protecting and safeguarding its students and staff from the risk of being drawn into terrorism. The University manages Prevent as part of its welfare and safeguarding activities, and this Policy should be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding Policy and IT Usage Policy.
- 1.2 The University and is committed to maintaining a safe, inclusive and supportive environment where all members of the University community are encouraged to engage in debate and to pursue both academic and non-academic interests.
- 1.3 This Policy is written with reference to the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and the Dorset Counter Terrorism Local Profile. The Act places a duty on universities to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.'

"Radicalisation" refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism. During that process it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being drawn into terrorist-related activity.

"Extremism" is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas. Terrorist groups very often draw on extremist ideas developed by extremist organisations.

Department of Education – The Prevent Duty

- 1.4 This Policy sets out how the University responds to the Prevent duty, including partnership with other agencies and engagement with the Channel process.

2. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 Safeguarding and the Prevent duty is the responsibility of all members of staff. All staff must maintain an awareness of Prevent duties and undertake relevant training in line with the requirements of their role.
- 2.2 This Policy applies to all University staff, students, governors, contractors and visitors (the 'University Community').
- 2.3 The University will seek to identify, protect and support individuals who it believes may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism.
- 2.4 The Academic Registrar is Principal Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and Prevent Lead. The nominated deputy for this function is the Students' Union Manager.
- 2.5 The Prevent Steering Group is responsible for managing the University Prevent Duty under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 on behalf of the Board of Governors in partnership with staff, students, visitors and contractors.

3. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- 3.1 The University will maintain a risk assessment to identify the potential risks associated with students or staff being drawn into terrorism.
- 3.2 On the basis of this risk assessment the University will identify any actions which need to be taken to mitigate these risks and develop an appropriate action plan.
- 3.3 The University will ensure that all staff members are provided with appropriate training and are made aware of the process for referring concerns regarding staff and students (see Section 5 below).
- 3.4 The University provides welfare support for students and staff, including a chaplaincy for persons of all faiths, and those with no faith.
- 3.5 The University will work closely with its Students' Union to support the Prevent requirements of the University.
- 3.6 The University will ensure both staff and students involved with arranging events and activities are aware of the Freedom of Speech Policy.
- 3.7 The University will nominate a Prevent Lead whose duties will include:
 - Attending area Prevent Steering Group meetings to update on the Prevent agenda;
 - Ensuring relevant updates on the Prevent Agenda and on threat levels are communicated to the appropriate University staff;
 - Ensuring relevant staff are provided with appropriate training;
 - Ensuring the Senior Management Group and Board of Governors are fully apprised of Prevent developments through annual reporting;
 - Convene and Chair the Prevent Steering Group;
 - Comply with the statutory reporting requirements of the Office for Students.

4. RAISING CONCERNS

- 4.1 Any member of the University may identify concerns about a member of the University community potentially being drawn into terrorism based on information received or behaviour observed.
- 4.2 The University recognises that raising concerns of this nature can be difficult and that staff are not experts in recognising radicalisation; it is therefore important to act if there are **any** concerns regarding the safety, welfare or safeguarding of students or staff. For example, a change in student behaviour, attitude, attendance, work ethic, friendship group, appearance could be a sign of radicalisation or deteriorating health and wellbeing. Therefore, raising a concern will support this member of our community and the safeguarding team can determine next steps.
- 4.3 The University will seek to approach such concerns from the perspective of safeguarding the individual about whom concerns have been expressed. It is important that such concerns can be shared in a safe and supportive fashion. It is equally important that any concerns raised are dealt with thoroughly and fairly; the Prevent Lead will seek advice from Department for Education Regional Prevent Education Coordinator.
- 4.4 If a staff member or student has concerns about a member of the University community they should report this to the Academic Registrar, Students' Union Manager, or any member of the wider Safeguarding team (see Safeguarding Policy for list of staff and their roles).
- 4.5 Once enquires have been made the available information will be considered by the appropriate members of the Safeguarding team, in discussion with other members of University staff and external partners.

4.6 A flowchart for the process of reporting concerns is included in Appendix 1.

5. INFORMATION SHARING

- 5.1 In reaching a decision to share any information with third parties the University will adhere to its Data Protection Policy.
- 5.2 In sharing information with external parties the University will share only sufficient and relevant information in order to allow the concern to be appropriately followed up.
- 5.3 Records relating to any information shared will be kept in accordance with the Data Protection Act (2018).

6. REVISION

This Policy will be revised as necessary in the light of statutory changes, new guidance and/or experience of its operation.

7. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Process for Reporting Concerns

Version:	2.2
Ratified by:	SMG
Originator/Author	Academic Registrar
Owner	Academic Registrar
Reference source:	Arts University Bournemouth, BU and Prevent; University of Nottingham
Date approved:	7 June 2022 as version 2.1 (2.2: updated names and titles applied August 2024)
Effective from:	Immediate
Review date:	Spring 2025
Target:	All Staff, All students
Policy location:	Website, SIP
Equality analysis	✓

APPENDIX 1: Process for Reporting Concerns

