



UNIVERSITY
of York

Together York

The University of York Community Declaration



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The University of York is a community of learning and enquiry. As a student, you join this community to pursue your academic interests and develop as an individual. At York, you will be challenged intellectually, encouraged to consider your place in society, and supported to achieve and to thrive. We want to empower you to think deeply, to explore ideas and experiences adventurously, and to use your time to become the best person you can be.

Effective communities are built on shared values. This declaration has been developed collaboratively by students and staff. It is a living document that describes the foundations and aspirations of our community. While some of the statements in this declaration may seem obvious, we believe it is worthwhile to articulate our values, priorities and expectations, and invite all members of the community to join together in upholding and developing them.

1. A community of scholarship

We are a community of scholarship, where independent critical thinkers explore their area of study with passion and diligence.

Together:

- we engage in the pursuit of knowledge
- we are inquisitive and open-minded, respecting evidence and argument.

You can expect the University:

- to offer an inspiring learning environment, support you to develop your aspirations and grow intellectually
- to provide well-designed programmes of study, where the objectives and the methods of learning are clear and effective
- to provide excellent teaching, delivered by staff who inform their teaching by research taking place within the University and beyond
- to support your study with high quality learning resources, regular academic supervision, and timely and constructive feedback on your work.

As a student member of the University, you are expected:

- to make the most of your time at York, striving for academic success and preparing for life beyond university
- to develop as an autonomous learner, devoting appropriate time to private study, and as a collaborative learner, engaging with staff and other students
- to prepare for and attend all scheduled teaching activities, and complete assigned work, both formative and summative, on time
- to use the feedback you receive to aid your learning and academic progression.

2. A community of respect

We are a community built on respect, fairness and compassion. We hold each other to these expectations and call out inappropriate behaviour. Speak out, step up. Be part of the solution, not the problem.

Together:

- we act according to our shared values of respect, fairness and compassion, and hold each other to these expectations
- we debate our differences, relying on reason to examine values and tackle hard questions with respect and sensitivity
- we challenge injustice, unfairness, disrespect and abuse, both within and beyond the University.

You can expect the University:

- to show respect to you and treat you fairly
- to engage proactively with challenge and criticism
- to be fair, clear and timely in dealing with complaints, academic appeals, and non-academic issues such as fees and costs
- to support and advance the interests of students, engage student representatives in its decision making and provide opportunities for students to help to shape the University's development.

As a student member of the University, you are expected:

- to show respect to others and yourself
- to be willing to have your preconceptions and stereotypes challenged
- to actively challenge disrespectful speech and unfair behaviour and to seek support from the University if your experience is adversely affected by disrespect or unfairness from students or staff in a way you are unable to resolve independently
- to engage with opportunities to enhance the experience of all students, including by helping to select student representatives in your department, College and students' union, and by providing feedback on your experience.

3. A community of purpose

We are a community that cultivates personal growth and supports each student in developing a vision for their future.

Together:

- we maintain a welcoming environment, where people of all backgrounds and identities can feel at home and can explore and develop their values, motivations and aspirations
- we maintain activities and opportunities that prepare students for fulfilling lives and ready to make a positive contribution to society
- we make a positive contribution to York, the region and beyond.

You can expect the University:

- to welcome you into an active and supportive collegiate community
- to provide, and support the students' unions to provide, opportunities for you to get involved in sports, societies, volunteering, social activities and experiences that will enrich your development.
- to provide information on the opportunities available to graduates, and offer support and contacts to help you to become a successful applicant for graduate jobs or further study
- to offer a range of effective services that support you to resolve issues that may impact on your studies.

As a student member of the University, you are expected:

- to be a good neighbour, both on and off campus, considerate of the needs of others, and contributing to the maintenance of a supportive community
- to make the most of opportunities outside your academic programme to develop your skills, explore your values and map out a vision of life beyond university
- to use the university's resources to explore career options and prepare to make effective applications
- to familiarise yourself with the support that is available, be mindful of your own health and well-being, and seek support for issues that may inhibit your learning.

Projects

Part of the development of Together York is our commitment to run associated projects each year. The projects are developed and delivered jointly with the University's Students' Union (YUSU) and Graduate Students' Association (GSA).

The projects are designed to promote and enhance the collaboration between York and its student organisations around the three themes.

There is more information about past and current projects on the website.