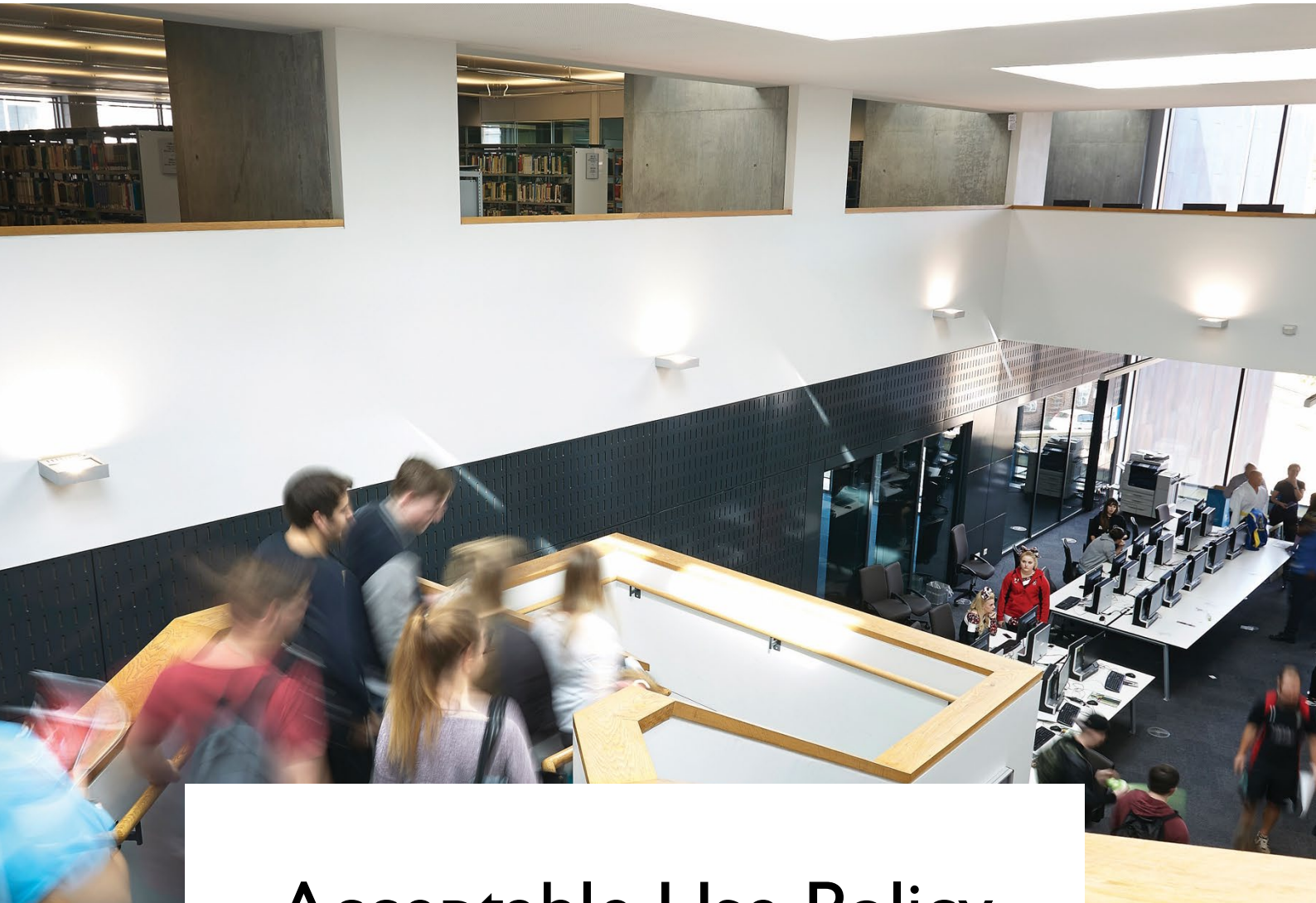




BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
NEW UNIVERSITY

EST. 1891



# Acceptable Use Policy



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This document has been designed to be accessible for readers. However, should you require the document in an alternative format please contact the University Secretariat.

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## Purpose

- 1 The purpose of this policy is to help ensure that Buckinghamshire New University's IT facilities and systems can be used safely, lawfully and equitably.

## Applicability and Scope

- 2 This policy applies to anyone using the IT facilities (hardware, software, data, network access, third party services, online services or IT credentials) provided or arranged by Buckinghamshire New University (BNU). This means more than students and staff and includes, for example:
  - Visitors to Buckinghamshire New University's website, and people accessing the institution's online services from off campus;
  - External partners, contractor and agents based onsite and using Buckinghamshire New University's network, or offsite and accessing the institution's systems;
  - Tenants of the institution using the University's computers, servers or network;
  - Visitors using the institution's Wi-Fi;
  - Students and staff from other institutions logging on using eduroam.

## Legislation and Policy

- 3 All users of Buckinghamshire New University's IT facilities are bound by the laws of England and Wales. An illustrative list of these is given in the Applicable Laws and Regulations document. It is the user's responsibility to ensure their activities comply with these laws.
- 4 When making use of the internet, the [JISC Acceptable Use Policy](#) also applies.
- 5 The University has a statutory obligation under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015) to consider the need to prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism. This legislation is reinforced through the Prevent duty guidance for higher education institutions in England and Wales, known as the 'Prevent Duty.' The full BNU notice can be found [here](#).
- 6 Any information you create or store on BNU systems may be released under an information access request in line with (but not limited to) Data Protection and Freedom of Information.

## Acceptable Use

- 7 The University network may be used for any legal activity that supports the University's teaching, learning, research, consultancy and operational activities. Whilst the principles of academic freedom will be fully respected, IT facilities must be used responsibly, in accordance with the law and not in a way that brings the University into disrepute.
- 8 Users of the University's IT facilities, remain subject to all relevant laws and policies. Additionally, when accessing services from another legal jurisdiction, users must abide by all relevant local laws, as well as those applicable to the location of the service.
- 9 If you use University IT facilities to access third party services or resources you are bound by the regulations associated with that service or resource.
- 10 When using University IT facilities from another institution e.g. via eduroam, you are subject to both Buckinghamshire New University's policies and those of the institution where you are accessing services.

- 11 Users of the University's IT facilities must adhere to all relevant licence conditions when using software procured or provided by the University.
- 12 Use of these facilities for personal activities (provided that it does not infringe any of the regulations, and does not interfere with others' valid use) is permitted, but this is a privilege that may be withdrawn at any point.
- 13 Use of the University's IT facilities for non-institutional commercial purposes, or for personal gain, requires the explicit approval of the Director of Digital and Technical services.
- 14 If you handle personal, confidential or sensitive information, you must take all reasonable steps to safeguard it and manage it in accordance with Buckinghamshire New University's Information Classification Policy and supporting guidance.
- 15 Users of the University's IT facilities must periodically undertake approved Information Security training courses, or other training appropriate to their role at the University.
- 16 In the event that there is a genuine academic need to carry out an activity that might breach acceptable use, such as research involving sensitive or extreme materials, approval must be obtained in advance via the appropriate University process, e.g. University Ethics process.

## **Unacceptable Use**

- 17 The University network may not be used for any of the following:
  - The creation or transmission (other than for properly supervised and lawful research purposes) of any offensive, obscene or indecent images, data or other material, or any data capable of being resolved into obscene or indecent images or material;
  - The creation or transmission of material which is designed or likely to cause annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety;
  - The creation or transmission of material with the intent to defraud;
  - The creation or transmission of defamatory material;
  - Use your IT account to send Spam (unsolicited bulk mail), forge addresses, or use University mailing lists other than for legitimate purposes related to University activities;
  - Deliberately or recklessly consume excessive IT resources such as processing power, bandwidth or consumables;
  - Using the IT facilities in a way that interferes with others' valid use of them;
  - Impersonating someone else or otherwise disguise your identity when using the IT facilities;
  - The creation or transmission of material that infringes copyright, or breaks the terms of licenses for software or other material;
  - Access, or attempt to access, University systems and information for which permission has not been granted;
  - Partaking in any activity that contravene any laws, University policies or regulations.
- 18 You are specifically prohibited from
  - Damaging, reconfiguring or moving equipment;
  - Loading software on the University's equipment other than in approved circumstances;
  - Reconfiguring or connecting equipment to the network other than by approved methods;
  - Setting up servers or services on the network;

- Introducing data-interception, password-detecting or similar software or devices to the University's network;
  - Deliberately or recklessly introducing to your device or University services or systems any form of spyware, computer virus or other potentially malicious software;
  - Attempting to disrupt or circumvent IT security measures;
  - Sharing your IT credentials with another user or attempt to obtain or use anyone else's credentials;
  - Using personal email accounts instead of a University staff email account to conduct University business, or automatically forwarding emails from a staff email account to a personal account.
- 19 If you are a staff member or working in such a capacity you must not create or store personal, or sensitive university information on personally owned devices this includes via the use of file synchronisation tools.

## Social Media

- 20 BNU recognises the benefits of using social media as an important means of communication both to enhance the profile of the University and the professional profile of individuals. Social media must be used in a responsible and ethical manner. Social media accounts must not be used to:
- Post offensive or inappropriate content, including but not limited to sexually explicit or discriminatory material;
  - Harass, threaten, or intimidate others; and
  - Promote personal or commercial activities without prior approval from the University.
- 21 Additional guidance on the use of Social Media is provided in the Social Media Policy available on the [BNU web pages](#).

## Monitoring

- 22 BNU monitors and records the use of its IT facilities for the purposes of:
- Effective and efficient planning and operation;
  - Detection and prevention of infringement of University regulations;
  - Investigation of alleged misconduct; and
  - Continuation of normal business operations which may include requests to view content you have created / modified using IT systems e.g. email, during periods of absence.
- 23 BNU will comply with lawful requests for information from government and law enforcement agencies.
- 24 You must not attempt to monitor the use of the IT facilities without explicit authority
- 25 The University may need to access or suspend any user's account for business purposes. Action will only be taken where relevant authorisation has been acquired, or where the Information Security team have identified an immediate threat to University information.

## Leaving the University

- 26 On leaving the University access to IT facilities will be terminated according to the end date set in the Identity Management System. Before this date users must:

- Return to the Service Desk, in good condition, all personally issued IT equipment. IT equipment must not be retained by (or sold to) staff or students should they leave the University;
- Return to the Service Desk any University data whether printed, stored on removable media, or stored on remote or non-University computing systems.
- Not delete any data which belongs to the University and which the University may need in future without prior authorisation from your line manager or tutor;
- Ensure any data held in a personal areas such as OneDrive or Email which may be needed by the University is transferred to an appropriate shared area prior to their departure;
- Ensure any personal data that they wish to keep is removed from the University's systems, as they will not be entitled to access this (and the University will not retrieve it for them) once they leave.

## Enforcement

- 27 Infringement of this policy may result in sanctions under the University's disciplinary processes. Penalties may include withdrawal of services and/or fines. Offending material will be taken down.
- 28 Information about infringement may be passed to appropriate law enforcement agencies, and any other organisations whose regulations you have breached.
- 29 Any actual or suspected breaches of this policy must be reported to the Service Desk or the Director of Digital and Technical Services.

## Key Relevant Documents

- 30 This policy should be read and understood in the context of other Buckinghamshire New University Policies. Key documents include:
- Applicable Laws and Regulations
  - Data Protection Policy
  - Freedom of Information Policy
  - Information Security Policy
  - Social Media Policy
  - Staff Code of Conduct
  - Student Code of Conduct
  - Employee Disciplinary Policy and Procedure

## Table of Definitions

JISC	<a href="#">Jisc</a> are the University's internet service provider (ISP). They also provide digital services and solutions to the University
IT Facilities	Hardware, software, data, network access, third party services, online services or IT credentials provided or arranged by Buckinghamshire New University.
IT Credentials	Your institutional login, or any other token (email address, smartcard, dongle) issued by the University to identify yourself when using IT facilities.
Network	Access to the network provided by BNU. This would cover, for example, network connections in halls of residence (if you are using a network connection via a 3rd party you will need to adhere their terms of use / conditions), on campus Wi-Fi, connectivity to the internet from University PCs.
Sensitive information	Includes that marked as Confidential or Highly Confidential.
Software	For example operating systems, office application software, web browsers etc. that are provided by the University. Also software that BNU has arranged for

	you to have access to, for example, special deals for students on commercial application packages.
Staff	Staff are salaried members of the University or contracted individually by the University to provide a service.
Student	A person pursuing any course of study in the University.
University information	Includes, but is not confined to, paper and electronic documents and records, email, voicemail, still and moving images and sound recordings, the spoken word, data stored on computers or tapes, transmitted across networks, printed out or written on paper, carried on portable devices, sent by post, courier or fax, posted onto intranet or internet sites or communicated using social media
Visitors	A visitor is anyone, not a member of staff or student, requiring access to University premises or services.

## Appendix One: Equality Impact Assessment

<b>1. What is changing and why?</b>				
The policy has been updated to include references to the use of social media.				
<b>2. What do you know?</b>				
<p>This policy is a factual and procedural document, providing detailed standards for acceptable and unacceptable behaviours when using University IT equipment and network access. This will ensure that all IT facilities and systems can be used safely, lawfully, and equitably.</p> <p>To ensure this policy enables the University to meet its obligations under UK Data Protection Legislation reference has been made to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>existing university policies and procedures :</li> <li>Jisc Acceptable Use Policy</li> <li>Information Commissioners Office Guidance on the UK GDPR</li> <li>ISO/IEC 27001 - Information Security Management.</li> </ul>				
<b>3. Assessing the impact</b>				
	<b>Could benefit</b>	<b>May adversely impact</b>	<b>What does this mean?</b> <i>Impacts identified from what you know (actual and potential)</i>	<b>What can you do?</b> <i>Actions (or why no action is possible) to advance equality of opportunity, eliminate discrimination, and foster good relations</i>
a) How could this affect different ethnicities? <i>Including Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, Showmen and Boaters, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This policy does not distinguish between or affect differently people of different ethnicities. It protects the interest of all users.	The policy supports equality and diversity by outlining acceptable and unacceptable behaviour.
b) How could this affect cisgender and transgender men and women (including maternity/pregnancy impact), as well as non-binary people?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This policy does not distinguish between or affect differently cisgender and transgender men or women or non-binary people. It may have a positive impact on those users who do not feel able to attend university in person.	The policy supports equality and diversity by outlining acceptable and unacceptable behaviour.
c) How could this affect disabled people or carers? <i>Including neurodiversity, invisible disabilities and mental health conditions.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This policy does not affect disabled people or carers. It may have a positive impact on those users who can only access University resources remotely. It protects the interest of all users.	The policy is available on the BNU website therefore is available in different fonts, text size and through assistive technology.
d) How could this affect people from different faith groups?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This policy does not distinguish between or affect differently people from different faith groups. It protects the interest of all users.	
e) How could this affect people with different sexual orientations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This policy does not distinguish between or affect differently people with different sexual orientation. It protects the interest of all users.	



f) How could this affect different age groups or generations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This policy does not distinguish between or affect differently people from different age groups or generations. It protects the interest of all users.	
g) How could this affect those who are married or in a civil partnership?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This policy does not distinguish between or affect differently unmarried or married people or those in civil partnerships. It protects the interest of all users.	
h) How could this affect people from different backgrounds such as: socio-economic disadvantage, homeless, alcohol and/or substance misuse, people experiencing domestic and/or sexual violence, ex-armed forces, looked after children and care leavers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This policy could have a positive impact on those individuals who find it difficult to attend University in person or for whom internet access is the only way that they access University resources.	
i) How could this affect people with multiple intersectional experiences?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This policy applies to all in the same way therefore there will not affect those with multiple intersectional experiences.	The policy supports equality and diversity in so much as it makes numerous references to the need to avoid any offensive material or material likely to cause annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety.
<b>4. Overall outcome</b>				
No major change needed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adjust approach <input type="checkbox"/>	Adverse impact but continue <input type="checkbox"/>	Stop and remove <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>5. Details of further actions needed</b>				
All staff will be made aware of the updated policy via an announcement on the staff Intranet where it will be published as a PDF document;				
<b>6. Arrangements for delivery and future monitoring</b>				
The policy will be reviewed according to the agreed schedule. The Director of Digital & Technical Services is responsible for reviewing the policy.				
<b>7. Completed by:</b>	Jenny Horwood	Technical Project Manager	<b>Date</b>	07-December-2023
<b>8. Signed off by:</b>	Nicholas Roussel-Milner	Director DTS	<b>Date</b>	15/01/2024



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