

Living in the Community - Guidance for Students

The University plays a positive role in the local community and works closely with community representatives to explain the value of the contribution of its students and staff and to deal with any problems that may arise. Students living in the community are subject to the various statutory and legal requirements and agencies that protect society as a whole. They may also be seen as representatives of the University and it is important that they act responsibly and sensitively to others in the community.

An issue for the University is the extent to which it should take action in relation to Misconduct away from the University's premises or when not on University business. The University's position is that:

1. When students are off University premises but taking part in University activities, (e.g. field trips or sporting events) the University will treat Misconduct in the same way as Misconduct committed on the University premises
2. When students are away from the University's premises and not taking part in University activities any Misconduct that involves or affects other University students, staff or visitors to the University, may be treated in the same way as Misconduct committed on the University's premises
3. Misconduct occurring when the student is on the balance of probabilities identifiable as a Northumbria student, such as anti-social behaviour towards neighbours, may be grounds for the student being accused of damaging the reputation of the University.

Note: For some professional programmes, there are additional fitness to practise requirements (outlined in the relevant programme documentation). Misconduct of any form may have implications for such fitness to practise.

Please consult Section 3 of the Handbook of Student Regulations for full details of the University's Disciplinary and Fitness to Practise Procedures available at www.northumbria.ac.uk/handbook

Anti-Social Behaviour in the Community

1. The University receives complaints from the public about the behaviour of people believed to be students of Northumbria University. Often, although not always, these complaints relate to behaviour as neighbours (principally unreasonable noise or other anti-social behaviour).
2. The University provides information to members of the public wishing to report a matter of anti-social behaviour they believe to have been committed by a Northumbria University student. [Click here](#) to view this information.
3. The University, out of a sense of responsibility to the community, and out of a concern for its reputation, does respond to complaints about individual students, or groups of students.
4. In many cases, the action will be taken at the Informal Stage, with students given advice as to how to best behave within the community
5. The University however has the right to deal with particularly serious cases under the Formal Stage of the Disciplinary Procedures. Penalties may range from a fine through to expulsion from the University in the case of gross Misconduct.

Facts about Misconduct in the Community

1. The City Council operates a Night Watch service. Officers can issue fixed penalty notices of over £100.
2. Further disturbance can lead to an Acceptable Behaviour Agreement being issued to individual students, or students collectively. Ultimately, a student can be found guilty of a criminal offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

