



PRIFYSGOL  
**BANGOR**  
UNIVERSITY

**Policy on the Use of Social Media  
and other digital platforms by students**

<b>Rev</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Purpose of Issue/Description of Change</b>	<b>Equality Impact Assessment Completed</b>
1.		Initial Issue - Version 1	

<b>Policy Officer</b>	<b>Senior Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Approved By</b>	<b>Date</b>
Head of Governance and Compliance	University Secretary	Compliance Task Group	

*This Policy will be reviewed in 3 years*

# Policy on the use of social media and other digital platforms by students.

## 1. Scope

This Policy applies to all students studying at Bangor University or on Bangor University accredited programmes and is also relevant whilst undertaking official duties on behalf of the University either in an employed or volunteer capacity (e.g. student mentors, peer guides, interns, open day volunteers, etc).

## 2. Introduction

This Policy sets out the principles which students are expected to follow online. It is impossible to cover all eventualities; however, the principles set out in this document should be followed. The intention of this document is not to stop individuals from conducting legitimate activities on the internet and social media, but serves to highlight areas where conflicts may arise.

Any infringement of the Policy could also breach the General Regulations for all Students ([Regulation 13](#)) and whilst we will attempt to resolve matters informally when appropriate, matters may need to be treated formally by the University. Infringements may be considered under the University disciplinary procedures in accordance with the Regulation for Student Discipline ([Regulation 21](#)).

## 3. Principles

Any online activities which associates students with their academic work such as when using social media for the collection of data should be discussed in advance with their personal tutor.

Online activities that may associate students with any extracurricular activity, including Undeb Bangor Clubs, Societies and Volunteering Groups should be in accordance with the requirements of any membership agreement, local guidelines or other relevant regulations that may be in place.

Individuals should not engage in activities on the Internet, which might bring the University or Students' Union into disrepute.

Students should not use the internet in any way to attack, discredit, harass or abuse other individuals, groups or organisations. Students should not post defamatory or offensive comments on the Internet and should be mindful of data protection and privacy considerations, when posting photographs of individuals online, such as without the consent of the person identified. This is not an exhaustive list, however aims to guide responsible activity.

Students are allowed to update their personal blog and social media accounts from a University computer subject to Section 4.1 of the University's *Acceptable Use Regulations*.

Students must act responsibly and appropriately without causing nuisance or offence during lectures, seminars and all other official activities, including those conducted online or via digital platforms. This includes "chat" and / or messenger type functions.

#### **4. Online / Digital Platforms, including Social Networking Sites or Blogs**

Online / digital platforms including the internet and Social Networking Sites provide a way for people to maintain contact with other students and friends. However, through the open nature of such sites it is also possible for third parties to collate vast amounts of information.

Individuals should be mindful of the information they disclose on the internet and any digital platform. Where they associate themselves with the University or Students' Union or by joining a Bangor University network or Student Group, they should act in a manner which does not bring the University or Students' Union into disrepute, and / or could give rise to a legal claim against the University or Students' Union or may reasonably cause offence to others.

In relation to their own personal social media accounts, students should be aware of who can view their profile and act appropriately. Students should consider the possible impact of posting comments on social networking sites, and the use of a disclaimer in this regard is not enough. Comments and / or postings on personal social networking accounts should not disclose any information that is sensitive, confidential or proprietary either to the University itself and / or to any third party that has disclosed information to the University. In such cases, the University may, if appropriate, consider disciplinary action and, in extreme cases, may consider taking legal action.

Students should respect the privacy and the feelings of all who may see or be affected by the content that they post. Students should also be aware that if they break the law on a blog (for example by posting something defamatory) they may be personally responsible.

Students should always adhere to the requirements of the University's Data Protection and Information Security policies when considering disclosure of information. Blogs, Social Networking Sites, digital platforms or websites that do not initially identify the author may still be covered by this Policy if the identity of the author later becomes known.

#### **5. Reporting**

Any misuse of social media or other third party platforms can be reported as a complaint and should be submitted to [complaints@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:complaints@bangor.ac.uk) and will be managed in accordance with the [Student Complaints Procedure](#).

Victims of harassment and abuse can seek the support of the Student Equality and Diversity Officer. Further information can be found [here](#).

#### **6. Further Information**

*This policy should be read, in particular, in conjunction with the following University or Students' Union Guidance / Policies:*

- [Privacy Notice](#).
- [Data Protection Policy](#).
- [Acceptable Use Regulations](#).
- [Securing your Social Media Accounts](#).
- [Regulation 21: Student Discipline](#).
- [Regulation 13: General Regulations for all Students and Code of Conduct](#).