

A21 Freedom of Speech Policy

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

Ensuring freedom of speech is considered fundamental to SAE Institute as a Higher Education provider. The purpose of this policy is to set out the importance given by SAE to promoting the freedom of speech within the law, and that it secures this for all students, guests, and visiting speakers.

Wherever practicable, SAE seeks to abide by the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), preserving the right to freedom of speech and expression, while also acknowledging its duties and responsibilities in the exercise of these freedoms, especially towards the safeguarding of students. Each SAE campus is also subject to the legislation of the nation in which it is situated and will abide by such laws as applicable.

1.2 Related Policies and Documents

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- A18 Student Code of Conduct
- University of Hertfordshire EQ04 Freedom of Speech
- Local and national legislation, as appropriate.

2 Scope

This policy applies to all SAE students and visiting speakers engaged with one or more SAE campuses involved in the delivery of validated programmes. It applies to any event or activity arranged by any SAE staff, both within and outside of the normal teaching programme; arranged by SAE students with the express permission of SAE; or arranged by external bodies using SAE premises.

3 Policy

All students, guests, and visiting speakers are expected to behave in a manner that actively promotes free speech within a non-offensive environment, and in a way that is respectful to others.

Academic freedom and freedom of speech are fundamental to learning, in the pursuit of gaining new knowledge and to facilitate free and open debate. SAE therefore encourages a culture of vigorous and fearless discussion, within the law, that ensures critical thinking and challenges violent extremist and illegal narratives and those who promote them.

Whilst there is no legal prohibition on offending others, SAE nevertheless believes that discussion that is open and honest can take place only if offensive or provocative action and language is avoided. Students, guests and visiting speakers are therefore required to demonstrate sensitivity to the diversity of the SAE community and to ensure that they show respect to others.

3.1 Visiting Speakers

SAE Institute is committed to providing a collaborative and collegial educational environment. As part of an ongoing process of building and maintaining a global community that prides itself on diversity and experience, SAE regularly welcomes visiting speakers (in person and virtually) to present at its campuses.

While preserving the right to freedom of speech, SAE will not provide a platform for visiting speakers who speak derogatorily, offensively, or with intolerance. SAE does not countenance any speaker(s) who promote intimidating behaviour, intend or attempt to incite hatred, endorse terrorism in any form, or encourage violence or radical extremism.

Before being invited to speak, an assessment should be made of any proposed visiting speaker with respect to freedom of speech. The process for this assessment is determined locally for each region or campus, but ultimate responsibility for a visiting speaker at any campus rests with the Campus Manager of that site.

All visiting speakers should be made aware of this policy.

3.2 Sub-heading

SAE students, guests and visiting speakers are expected to abide by the established Codes of Conduct at all times during any events falling under the scope of this policy. This includes the A18 Student Code of Conduct.

4 Policy History

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