

UEL Engagement & Attendance Policy Information for Undergraduate and Postgraduate taught students

Throughout your time at UEL we monitor your engagement with your programme. We will consider your engagement with learning resources and sessions with your Academic Advisor and scheduled classes.

As a UEL student you are expected to engage with all scheduled sessions, including lectures, seminars, group work and tutorials. You are also expected to be punctual, to be respectful of others' time as well as your own, to participate whilst present, to put in time to study between classes, to prepare for taught sessions and to be active participants in both groupwork and your own learning experience.

This policy applies to all enrolled students on taught programmes and recognises that modes of study may have differential requirements.

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1. Why does the University monitor my engagement?

We monitor your attendance because we have a duty of care towards our students and we want to ensure that you get the most out of your academic and professional experience at UEL. Poor engagement affects not only you, but also those who are learning alongside you on your module or programme.

We also have statutory responsibilities to report non-attendance and changes in your enrolment status to funding bodies. In the case of international (Tier 4) students we are also required to inform UK Visas and Immigration if you are no longer engaging with your studies.

2. What are my responsibilities in relation to my engagement?

We expect you to be committed to your studies and to demonstrate this through your attendance, participation and general level of engagement. That includes keeping appointments with your Academic Advisor and other staff, preparing well for taught sessions and making good use of the wide range of resources and opportunities available to you.

You are expected to attend and participate with all taught sessions and engage in all activities that are scheduled as necessary to achieve the learning outcomes of your programme, as outlined in programme and module handbooks.

For your own benefit, and out of respect for teaching staff and other students, you must turn up in good time, stay for the entirety of a taught session and participate fully. Lateness or leaving early may be marked as absences. You are responsible for all required work that is missed due to absences or lateness.

It is your responsibility to regularly check your timetable as, on occasions, room changes may occur for campus-based events.

If you experience difficulties with attending taught sessions, turning up on time, staying to the end of classes or engaging with any other aspect of your studies, please raise this straight away with your Academic Advisor, module or programme leader.

3. How does my engagement affect my student loan funding?

If you are in receipt of tuition fee loans and/or or maintenance loans via the Student Loans Company (SLC), the University has an obligation to report your attendance during the academic year and to notify the SLC of any changes in your enrolment status.

Maintenance loan funding is provided to support students with the costs of studying fulltime. If you cease to engage full-time with your programme, including consistent engagement with scheduled classes, then you will lose your entitlement to this funding.

In the event that you are suspended or withdrawn from your programme at UEL, the University will notify the SLC and will provide your last date of engagement. You may be required to immediately pay back any monies received from the SLC after this date.

Please consult the UEL Fees Policy for further information on your liability to pay tuition fees if you suspend or withdraw from your programme. The UEL Student Money, Advice and Rights Team (SMART) can provide information, advice and guidance on student funding and finance.

4. How does my attendance affect my Tier 4 student visa?

The University has statutory obligations to UK Visas and Immigration to ensure all enrolled Tier 4 students are attending fully, as required by the conditions of their visa. Any decision regarding a student's continued enrolment as a result of engagement concerns will be reviewed by the Student Immigration and Compliance Team in collaboration with academic staff, in line with the Tier 4 requirements.

The University will report to UK Visas and Immigration any international students on a Tier 4 student visa who are withdrawn from their programme for not complying with the Engagement and Attendance Policy. This is in line with the University's compliance responsibilities as a Tier 4 sponsor. Reporting a withdrawal to UK Visas & Immigration will normally result in curtailment of visa for Tier 4 students.

5. What happens if my access card is lost or damaged?

It is always your responsibility to have your access card with you when you are on campus. You must not give your card to anyone else to use. Please immediately contact the Student Hub if your card is lost or damaged, or if you have any reason to believe that it is faulty.

6. What should I do if I need to miss one or more of my classes?

The University recognises that you may need to undertake part-time employment to support your studies and may have other commitments such as childcare or family or religious events. However, we do expect you, wherever possible, to fit these commitments around scheduled sessions in order to fully engage in your programme of study.

If you experience difficulties with attending taught sessions, turning up on time, staying to the end of classes or engaging with any other aspect of your studies, please raise this straight away with your Academic Advisor, Module or Programme Leader.

If you require an extended period of absence from your studies, or for any reasons you feel unable to continue with your existing timetable, please speak to your Academic Advisor, Programme Leader, or contact the Student Hub, where we will direct you to the right advice and support. We may talk to you about the possibility of taking a break from your studies, so that you are able to return to the University when you are in a better position to engage with your programme.

7. What should I do if I need to miss one or more of my assessment deadlines?

All assessment deadlines are published in advance and you are required to make yourself available for all scheduled exams and other assessed work. However, if you know that you will not be able to meet one or more of your assessment deadlines due to a serious and unplanned event, please complete an extenuation form.

8. What are the consequences of unsatisfactory engagement?

We will monitor your engagement on a rolling basis throughout the academic year. We do this by checking that you have swiped into all of the scheduled sessions on your published timetable, engaged with on-line activities and accessed resources. We review this data on a regular basis and will contact you where we see that you have repeatedly missed classes or where you have stopped engaging all together. Lack of engagement with scheduled sessions and online resources or repeated non-attendance may lead to you being withdrawn from your programme of study.

9. How does this policy apply to part-time and distance learning students?

This policy applies to part-time and/or distance learning students as well as full-time students. As a part-time and/or distance learning student, we also expect you to be committed to your studies and to demonstrate this through your general level of engagement. That includes making good use of the wide range of resources and opportunities available to you.

You are expected to engage in all activities that are scheduled as necessary to achieve the learning outcomes of your programme, as outlined in programme and module handbooks.

This includes completing and submitting all coursework on time and taking all exams set for your programme of study.

For distance-learning students, engagement will be assessed through the recording of your log-in activity. For your own benefit, and out of respect for teaching staff and other students, you are expected to join in online sessions where required, logging on in good time, staying online for the entirety of a live session, and participating fully. You should inform your School, as outlined in the programme and module handbooks, if you cannot fully participate with your studies, set activities or assessments. This helps them to help you.

10. What should I do if I want to leave the University?

The Student Support Hub welcomes being notified of any difficulties you are facing at the earliest opportunity in order to support you in the best way that we can. If you are thinking about leaving UEL, you should contact the Student Support Hub who will talk to you about your options.

11. What should I do if I am unhappy with my attendance and engagement monitoring

Your attendance and engagement are vital to your success at university. It is therefore essential that you engage with all sessions and activities that make up your programme of study and monitor your progress while studying. If you are unhappy with the way that your attendance has been recorded, please contact the student engagement and retention team who can talk to you about your engagement.