

## Protecting Academic Freedom at the London Film School

### 1. Introduction

The London Film School (LFS) is committed to protecting academic freedom and freedom of speech for students, staff and guests.

Freedom of thought, freedom of expression and freedom of assembly are all enshrined in the school's ethos and are important to ensure that new ideas can be advanced and free debate can take place.

Academic freedom, however, is not an unqualified privilege and LFS is subject to a range of legislation and obligation to ensure the safety and well-being of students and staff (see 'General Stipulations' below).

### 2. General Stipulations

- 2.1. LFS has the statutory duty "to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism" (Section 26(1) of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015).
- 2.2. The protection of freedom of speech does not extend to allowing a speaker to commit a criminal offence in the course of speaking
- 2.3. LFS are subject to legal responsibilities such as preventing discrimination, harassment and victimisation and the health, safety and welfare of employees, students, external speakers and visitors.
- 2.4. Guest speakers, whether they are invited by the School or the Students' Union must be vetted using the school's procedure (see 'LFS Guidance on External Engagement').

### 3. The Student Charter

The Student Charter outlines key components in the aforementioned areas, including:

- Fair and respectful treatment regardless of gender, age, race, nationality, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief;
- Fostering of a safe and tolerant atmosphere in which creative and academic goals may be pursued free from harassment and discrimination of any kind;
- Valuing of the international and culturally diverse community at the School;

### 4. Students' Film Exercises and Scripts

The nature of the courses encourages students to choose subjects for their film exercises and scripts from a wide range of topics and genres.

Considering both the diverse student body and the wider environment LFS operates in, current affairs, conflicts and disputes, including those involving ethnicity or religion, may sometimes be the subject of students' projects.

It is LFS' responsibility to ensure that it monitors such projects carefully and identifies those that are at risk of becoming unlawful and/or pose risks to students, staff and guests.

The monitoring of all project on the MA Filmmaking programme is the responsibility of the Term Tutor who has oversight over all projects. Student projects on the MA Screenwriting programme are monitoring by the Course Leader.

In addition, Personal Tutors are in regular contact with their tutees and monitor the progress and well-being.

Relevant training with regard to 'Prevent' will be provided to staff involved in monitoring students' activities.

The process for 'Sharing Information About Vulnerable Students' can be found in a separate document.

## 5. Extra-Curricular Events

Approval of extra-curricular events, including guest speakers is covered in the 'LFS Guidance on External Engagement'.

## 6. Version Control

Version Number	Changes	Author, Title	Date
0.1	-	Philip Range, Academic Registrar	20/04/2016
1.0	Approved by Leadership Group	-	17/05/2016
1.0	Reviewed by Academic Board; no changes made	-	13/03/2018