

Code of Conduct for HSE University Students

HSE University's student community brings together the most talented and ambitious people of their generation. We represent a diverse array of cultures, countries, cities, political and religious views, but nevertheless share the same academic and ethical values, coupled with a common interest in the development of both our community and University.

This Code of Conduct articulates and sets foundational norms to be shared by the University's student community. Together with HSE University's Statement of Values, this Code is the ethical foundation for the University, its activities and all for which it stands, whereby all undergraduates, doctoral students and lyceum learners shall be guided in research work, studies and general academic life. Furthermore, this Code of Conduct shall be considered the natural development of the provisions found in HSE University's Statement of Values, while following global standards established in the academic community, with due consideration given to the key features of student life at our University.

1. Academic Integrity and Freedom

- 1.1 At HSE University, it is our goal to eagerly pursue and identify scientific truth. With this in mind, we recognize and accept the varying views and belief systems held by our many students¹, teachers and researchers. Nevertheless, scientific knowledge is more important to us than personal disagreements. Therefore, it is our objective to make sure that our individual views and values do not overshadow new knowledge or limit our academic and research activities.
- 1.2 We are eager to cultivate our ability to critically analyze any new information, including our own research outcomes. We see this as a key quality for each and every participant in the HSE University community. In our research activities, we shall be guided by proper scholarly methods, while in our studies, we shall always strive to go above and beyond, which may include identifying and discussing alternative sources. Also, we always welcome constructive criticism, as long it is presented in a respectful manner, regardless of whom it originates or to whom it may be addressed.
- 1.3 We must respect the opinions and views of other students, teachers and researchers, while also freely expressing our positions on various academic and professional subjects, all while guided by academic ethics.

¹ "Student" shall hereinafter also refer to lyceum learners, doctoral students and other students at HSE University.

- 1.4 We highly value academic freedom at HSE University: the ability to select an educational trajectory, the variability of courses, diversity of research and applied projects. The University's academic community fully supports interdisciplinary and interfaculty research initiatives and the work of international research teams.
- 1.5 We cannot be compelled to subscribe to a particular methodological or ideological approach or school.

2. Honesty and Transparency

- 2.1 We respect and support the right of our academic community to openly, constructively and honestly voice their concerns. At the same time, we are eager to find solutions to primarily pressing problems by resorting to transparent and conciliatory approaches to dispute resolution, as proposed at the University. By assessing teaching quality, bringing up critical issues by using 'hotline', working with student councils, administrative subdivisions and the student ombudsman, we present all relevant facts accurately and avoid any deliberate misrepresentation of information. In turn, HSE University is obliged to undertake all measures necessary to rectify such problems and protect the students who have brought them up.
- 2.2 Simply reporting a given problem cannot serve as a reason to amend academic criteria for those who informed of it, or to impose disciplinary or other sanctions on them. Both staff members and students, who retaliate against an applicant (in particular, by disclosing information acquired via internal communication channels without the applicant's express consent), should be liable for their actions, including in terms of disciplinary measures.
- 2.3 HSE University strongly opposes all forms of corruption, favouritism and nepotism in studies, research and extracurricular activities at our institution, adheres to principles of equality and avoids any conflicts of interest. If we detect a conflict of interest in our dealings, we must declare it immediately in writing or verbally. When a conflict of interest, the instance of bribery or transgression occurs, we utilize the communication channels already in place at the University: our 'hotline' service, student councils, and bodies charged with protecting the rights of learners, doctoral students and administrators.

- 2.4 We shall not accept any cheating in studies and research, such as plagiarism, falsified research results, copying and bribery. In dealings with HSE University, its students and community, we shall combat any double standards or instances of fraud as they arise.
- 2.5 Misappropriation of students' and teachers' intellectual property or works shall not be permitted. When taking part in group projects and joint activities, we must honestly assess contributions made by other students, while also not taking credit for others' success or foisting responsibility or obligations upon our peers without reason.

3. Partnership and Collaboration

- 3.1 Communication and collaboration at HSE University centre around such principles as equality, mutual respect and support, trust and readiness to engage in dialogue.
- 3.2 We are obliged to maintain an atmosphere of trust and support at HSE University, despite whatever competitiveness characterizes studies. Whether pursuing studies, research work or extracurricular activities, we shall engage in an open discussion with one another regarding pressing and important issues, with a view to cultivating a comfortable environment where various opinions may be expressed. In our discourse, we welcome criticism, but it must always be in good faith, accurate, well-balanced and dispassionate. Personal attacks shall never be permitted, and respect shall always be shown when dealing with people with differing positions. Furthermore, we are willing to listen to counterarguments and ready to adjust our positions based on expressed arguments.
- 3.3 Our community is ready to assist new students at HSE University to tap into our university-wide and faculty cultures, as well as provide selfless aid to our community members who may need it owing to specific circumstances. We develop, join in and support student projects, which are aimed at helping our community, maintaining a friendly atmosphere and enabling newcomers to better adapt to our institution.
- 3.4 It is our obligation to respect the customs and traditions of the many nationalities of the Russian Federation and other countries, with due consideration of cultural and other features of different ethnic, social and religious groups, while also aiming to achieve and preserve international and interconfessional accord. We believe the application of the international languages at events and through the University's communication channels is good form when interchanging ideas and views in multinational university context.
- 3.5 Learners shall treat teachers and staff at HSE University with due respect by learners and expect reciprocity in this attitude.

- 3.6 The HSE University community does not tolerate deliberate offensive utterances or actions. If intentional insults have taken place, we shall issue apologies without delay.
- 3.7 By respecting the private lives of other members of our university community, we shall never divulge or use for our own ends confidential information of other learners or teachers without their consent, even if such information is made available in instances when such disclosure is not in violation of relevant rights and freedoms of third parties.

4. Equality and Non-discrimination

- 4.1 As part of studies, we expect the most objective assessments of our knowledge and skills on the basis of transparent criteria accessible to all. We are also guided by these principles in order to gauge the contributions made by other students to the work accomplished.
- 4.2 In no way shall biased attitudes and discrimination be permitted on the basis of gender, race, skin colour, nationality language, origin, property status, family status, social position or occupation, age, sexual orientation, mental or physical health, citizenship, place of residence, attitude towards religion, political beliefs, involvement, or lack thereof, in public organizations and social associations. Such attitudes are not welcome at HSE University and we strive to ensure equal opportunities in any academic functions for all students, staff and teachers and in the course of our interactions with one another.
- 4.3 Not any student, group of students, teacher or staff member shall impose their views on other learners, doctoral students or staff members.
- 4.4 We shall not accept and must implacably oppose any form of physical or psychological abuse, which may be committed against persons both online and offline, be it between students or other members of the University community. Sexual harassment or coercion into sexual activities shall not be tolerated with respect to students and staff members alike. In addition, unwanted attention or uninvited physical contact, whether directed at persons of the same sex or the opposite sex, shall not be acceptable.
- 4.5 We do not welcome romantic and sexual relations with teaching assistants and lecturers at HSE University, if they teach courses that we are attending, or if they are members of evaluation committees, or our academic supervisors. We should seek to avoid the risk of exposure to the biased attitude and occurrence of mental health issues, which may stem from a conflict of roles. Furthermore, we may count on confidential psychological assistance should such relationships arise. Romantic and sexual relations shall not impact on objectivity in grading or assessments. Therefore, in such instances, we expect the University to propose

means for averting potential conflicts of interest, including transfers to other groups, replacement of academic supervisors or other effective actions.

5. Taking Part in University Life and Administration

- 5.1 We are keenly interested in the University's development and enhancing the quality of educational processes, services, infrastructure, atmosphere, extracurricular life and demand for graduates on the job market and in academia.
- 5.2 We perform our duties as set by the University in a responsible manner. We attach great importance to the work of our group leaders, teaching assistants and student curators, and we are eager to take on these roles or support learners, who engage in such activities.
- 5.3 We welcome proactive participation in the administration of the University. For instance, we can elect or stand for election for student councils and other student representative bodies. In turn, we welcome a responsible approach to elections of student representatives and go to them with both our issues and proposals, as well as monitor their work and provide feedback through student surveys held by the University administration and student councils, along with timely student assessments of teaching quality.
- 5.4 We are enthusiastic about the development of up-to-date infrastructure on campus and treat the University's property with due care. Moreover, we are ready to take part in planning transformations of the University's buildings and spaces within it.
- 5.5 We welcome the involvement of HSE University alumni in the development of the University and are eager to maintain contacts with our alma mater after graduation.
- 5.6 It is important for us to stay abreast of what's going on at HSE University, and, as such, we closely monitor our corporate channels of communication and news feeds, both at the faculty level and throughout the entire institution. We expect to be informed in full and on time about all important events and news, which may relate to our academic and extracurricular activities.
- 5.7 We recognize that we are participants in the University's community and, therefore, we must aim not to harm this community, the University, its students and teachers when making public appearances off campus or in media. In public presentations and publications, which indicate may contain our HSE University affiliation and contain value judgements on pressing social, religious or political issues, we must avoid using the language which may fan the flames of conflict, incite hatred, enmity or resentment in the society on the whole or individual social groups.

- 5.8 We honestly discuss all important issues regarding the University's operations and aim to settle whatever problems or conflicts may arise in keeping with principles of cooperative behaviour, together with other students and staff. Acting thusly, we expect the University to provide us with comprehensive and immediate information about planned significant solutions and changes, as well as the opportunity to take part in their development and application. It is our right to be heard, receive protection and support of the University's administration and student councils.
- 5.9 We shall refrain from the use of the University's name, symbols, trademarks and other designations for commercial, advertising or political purposes. We do not disseminate commercial or political advertising (either our own, or that of third parties or outside organizations) on the University's campus, nor use its resources and communication channels to gain a commercial or political benefit.

6. Social Activism and Political Neutrality

- 6.1 Regardless of our public position, we shall unconditionally respect the rule of law and order.
- 6.2 Adherence to political neutrality at the University shall not hinder our active involvement in social and community processes.
- 6.3 We actively support volunteerism, environmental and charitable initiatives, as well as student projects, which are focused on social development and finding solution to social problems. Furthermore, we actively promote educational and popular science projects, raise awareness of the public at large about scientific knowledge and achievements.
- 6.4 HSE University's social mission is of utmost importance to our community, whereby we aim to be useful and beneficial to the public and society, with our own academic family being an integral part of it. All our projects shall be made accessible to the city and the public.
- 6.5 We hold to such principles as sustainable development and foster initiatives and projects, which aim to enhance them, in particular, environmental protection, assistance to the needy, social development, social responsibility and global cooperation, both inside and outside of our University.
- 6.6 In our social and extracurricular engagements, we welcome and anticipate the involvement of the student community and the support of HSE University.

6.7 As citizens of Russia and other countries, we hold various political views and have the right to express them.

6.8 We shall not engage in political activities at HSE University, nor take advantage of educational processes and scientific discussions for the purpose of political campaigning. All political discussions at our institution shall be academic in character and underpinned by the search for constructive and well-founded arguments.

6.9 We do not make public political pronouncements on behalf of HSE University, its subdivisions, student associations, the entire student community or parts thereof.

7. Liability for Failing to Follow this Code of Conduct

7.1 The Code of Conduct stands as a convention and agreement among the HSE University community about proper interaction and individual behaviour.

- 7.2 This Code of Conduct shall not serve as an HSE University internal bylaw or regulation. Violation of the ethical prescriptions herein shall not entail disciplinary action, but nevertheless may be condemned by the University's community. Furthermore, deliberate and regular violation of the norms in the Code shall be considered an act of disrespect to the University's students, staff and the institution itself. Furthermore, should there be any legal grounds, such actions may result in legal implications (including disciplinary measures).
- 7.3 Any breach of ethical norms is unacceptable to us and, with this in mind, we shall undertake measures to remedy any such violations. Should such measures be impossible to implement, the University's administration and/or student councils shall be duly informed of such breaches. Moreover, we shall assist the University in its investigation of instances of alleged violations, while maintaining confidentiality with respect to afflicted students and staff members.