

Student Engagement Policy

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Summary of changes between current and previous version	Page
Incorporates the Office for Students (OfS) Quality and Standards Conditions	Throughout
Reference to Student Experience and Enhancement Committee (SEEC	Throughout
Introduces DGHE's legal duty to secure freedom of speech within the law, including protections for students expressing controversial views through representation or feedback structures.	New Section – Freedom of Speech and Representation
Clarifies that student representatives are entitled to express lawful but potentially controversial views and are protected from reprisal, aligning with DGHE's legal obligations.	Student Representative Job Description

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INTRODUCTION

David Game Higher Education (DGHE) is committed to promoting an inclusive and participatory academic culture, where students are active contributors to their learning environment and partners in the ongoing enhancement of academic quality. The College recognises the importance of student engagement in both quality assurance and improvement processes, and this policy sets out the mechanisms by which students contribute to decision-making at all levels of the institution.

This policy aligns with the expectations of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education and incorporates the Office for Students (OfS) Quality and Standards Conditions, which place clear responsibilities on higher education providers to maintain and improve quality. The relevant OfS Conditions include:

- Condition B1: Courses must be well-designed, providing a high-quality academic experience and enabling reliable assessment of student achievement.
- Condition B2: Students must receive the support they need to succeed in and benefit from higher education.
- Condition B4: Assessment must ensure that student achievement is valid and reliable.
- Condition B5: Providers must engage students individually and collectively in the development, assurance and enhancement of their educational experience.

DGHE ensures compliance with these conditions through its academic governance, quality assurance practices, and structured student partnership systems. These include feedback mechanisms, representation structures, and active student participation in committees and decision-making processes.

Freedom of Speech and Representation

DGHE is committed to protecting freedom of speech within the law, including the rights of students to raise concerns, express opinions, and engage in robust debate—especially through representative roles and institutional committees.

Student representatives and participants in governance structures will not be penalised for expressing lawful views, including views that may be controversial or unpopular. This policy should be read in conjunction with DGHE's Freedom of Speech Code of Practice, and any concerns relating to suppression of speech will be reviewed with reference to the College's legal obligations under the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023.

EXTERNAL REFERENCE POINTS

DGHE strives to meet the expectations and practices outlined in the UK Quality Code for Higher Education. This includes:

- Core Practices (e.g., engaging students in the quality of their educational experience),
- Common Practices (e.g., regular monitoring, review and enhancement of provision).

The College also adheres to relevant OfS Regulatory Notices, Advice, and Public Interest Governance Principles.

A mapping table identifies the mechanisms used to meet these obligations, such as:

- Student Engagement Policy
- Student-Staff Liaison Committee (SSLC)

- Academic Board
- Programme Management Committee
- Quality Assurance & Enhancement Handbook

STUDENT PARTNERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION IN THE INTERNAL QUALITY SYSTEM

Students are central to DGHE's quality processes. Engagement occurs through:

- College and course evaluations
- Module evaluation surveys
- Student Representatives and Ambassadors
- Focus Groups, Suggestion Boxes, and Social Media
- SSLC and representation on institutional committees

This engagement contributes to academic governance and informs:

- Academic Board
- Annual Course Reviews
- Higher Education Management Team
- The College's "You Said – We Did" initiatives

STUDENT/STAFF LIAISON COMMITTEE (SSLC)

Purpose: A formal forum to discuss academic and support service issues.

Responsibilities include:

- Students presenting concerns and feedback
- Staff responding to queries and ensuring communication flow

Membership: Includes student representatives and staff (e.g., Head of Student Experience and Wellbeing).

Operation: Meets every term; minutes reviewed by the Student Experience and Enhancement Committee (SEEC and the Senior Management Team).

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Chosen by peers to represent student interests in formal settings. Responsibilities include:

- Gathering and sharing student feedback
- Participating in course design and improvement
- Advocating on behalf of students

DGHE provides forums and fair elections to ensure all students can participate equally.

ELECTION OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Open and fair processes ensure all students have an equal opportunity.

Where elections are impractical, alternative fair selection processes are used.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE JOB DESCRIPTION

Purpose: To voice student concerns and support continuous improvement.

Responsibilities:

- Attending committees
- Listening and reporting on student feedback

Skills Developed: Active listening, presentation, diplomacy, assertiveness

Resources Provided: Communication tools, meeting support, and training

Representatives are encouraged to express the full range of student views, including those that challenge institutional policies or practices, provided such expression is lawful. DGHE supports open dialogue and academic freedom in line with its legal duties.

POLICY MONITORING, REVIEW AND ENHANCEMENT

This policy is reviewed bi- annually by the Student Experience and Enhancement Committee (SEEC in consultation with student representatives. The aim is to ensure the policy's effectiveness and identify areas for improvement in alignment with OfS standards.