

The Worcester Charter for Students

The University of Worcester seeks to be an outstanding university at which to be a student and will provide an outstanding educational experience through inspiring and relevant teaching and research. This Charter sets out the implications of those commitments for the University, the Students' Union and every student working together in a spirit of partnership. The Students' Union works with the University in their mutual interest of continually improving the educational experience of all students, including those on undergraduate, postgraduate taught and postgraduate research degrees.

The Charter is intended to be a signpost, rather than a comprehensive source of information. To ensure the continued relevance of this Charter, it is reviewed **regularly** by the University's Academic Board and the Students' Union Council.

Culture and expectations

Staff of the University, Students' Union and Students on University awards will:

- Interact with students and colleagues fairly and respectfully
- Accept responsibility for their actions
- Show fairness, professional impartiality and diligence
- Value diversity across disciplines, cultures and expertise
- Be respectful in their dealings with staff and students, clients and those in the local community
- Be committed to, and exercise responsibility for, their own personal, academic and professional development, taking into account any relevant professional standards
- Accept and take due account of feedback, given in whatever form
- Respect the physical environment and property of the University and Students' Union and contribute in a positive way within the local community
- Be aware of all documents published by the University and the Students' Union which relate in any way to being a student and/or a member of the Students' Union e.g. University [regulations and procedures](#) and [Students' Union constitution](#) etc.
- Aim for excellence in educational endeavours

Teaching and engagement

Staff of the University and Students Union are committed to the delivery of high standards of teaching, support, advice and guidance. Opportunities for regular continuing professional development exist for all staff.

Staff will make clear the contact hours and any detailed attendance requirements in the module outline issued at the beginning of the module. Students are expected to attend induction, participate in timetabled classes and attend meetings with tutors etc. On occasion it may be necessary to be absent from teaching and students will seek agreement from their tutors, in advance, when practicable. On occasion, it may be necessary to cancel classes and the University will follow the procedures stated in the [class cancellation policy](#) if this is necessary.

The curriculum will include access to activities that will enhance employability and personal development.

The University will provide library, IT facilities and support.

Students are also expected to take responsibility for managing their own learning: attend timetabled sessions and actively engage in their course; ensure they spend sufficient regular time in private study, and participate fully in group learning activities.

Assessment and Feedback

Staff at the University will make clear the detailed assessment criteria and tasks in module outlines.

Students will be provided with the opportunity to discuss assignment tasks before submission.

Students are required to submit all assessed items or if appropriate bring to the attention of the University details of any mitigating circumstances for consideration **up to one week (seven days) after the assessment submission date** or when appropriate seek an extension, by stated deadlines.

Formative assessment and feedback is used throughout the course. Staff will provide feedback on formative assessment or interim assessment normally before summative assessment deadlines for all modules.

Where appropriate, there is anonymous marking for all summative assessments.

Staff will provide individual feedback to students within twenty working days or communicate to students reasons for delay within the time frame. Students should actively seek and use feedback for their academic development.

Course Management

All students will have access to a course handbook which will set out the formal requirements of the course along with information on [academic appeals and complaints](#).

Staff at the University and Students' Union will encourage and support student participation in academic development and course management through the election of [Course Representatives](#). Students are expected to support Course Representatives and participate in systems which will lead to improvements in the quality of learning and teaching such as course surveys and the National Student Survey.

Support for students

The University seeks to provide outstanding support through [academic tutoring](#) or research supervision and a highly professional range of services to support students including access to counselling and advice on: health and welfare; accommodation; academic guidance, finance and careers etc. in order to assist students with academic and welfare problems.

In addition the [Students' Union](#) will provide independent support for students who encounter academic or welfare problems. They will also provide a range of clubs, societies, **volunteering** and fundraising to enhance students' personal and professional development.

The University will make clear to students the course costs, payment options and deadlines, and an estimate of necessary [additional costs](#) associated with the course. Students are expected to make prompt payment of charges made by the university.

Further Information

Many of the areas referred to in the Student Charter are described in more detail in other University documents.

Should you have any difficulties interpreting these documents, advice and support are available from a range of sources including your Personal Academic Tutor and the Students' Union.

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