Health and Safety Policy Statement – version 7

Introduction

This Policy outlines the highest level of the college’s health and safety management system. It consists of five parts:

- **Health and Safety Policy Statement.** This clearly states the college’s commitment to health and safety and is signed by the Principal and Deputy Principal (Operations).
- **Individual Responsibilities.** Every member of staff has a responsibility to ensure the health and safety of themselves and others who may be affected by their actions or omissions.
- **Roles and Responsibilities.** Outline of the roles and responsibilities of key positions for the management, assurance, and practical implementation of health and safety, including in responding to emergencies.
- **Arrangements.** Outline of the arrangements to implement health and safety at the college.
- **Measuring Performance.** The means of measuring the effectiveness of the health and safety management system.

Definitions

**Director of Professional Service.** Those senior managers within Professional Services with responsibility for a Directorate or Department. This includes roles such as Chief, Director, Assistant / Deputy Director, and Head of. The specific responsibilities will vary depending on the Directorate but will be aligned with either the Executive Dean and / or Head of Department.

**Health and Safety Management System.** The framework through which health and safety is implemented, monitored, and improved.
Health and Safety Policy Statement
11 May 2021

Royal Holloway, University of London is committed to ensuring the highest academic standards and providing an excellent student experience through responsible management. As part of this commitment, the college will ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of its students, staff, contractors, visitors, and members of the public. We will meet our legal requirements and will strive to achieve excellence in our management of health and safety.

Our overarching aim is that everyone who works on, or visits, our campus can enjoy its distinguished and distinctive history without detriment to their health and safety. This requires the identification and management of a diverse range of risks, some of which are unique to Higher Education. We will create a robust assurance framework to identify risks and ensure that they are being controlled and managed appropriately.

We will ensure that proportionate resources are available to manage health and safety risks. This includes providing reasonable adjustments, where required, to ensure that all individuals, without discrimination, are provided a safe and healthy working environment.

The Health and Safety Office will produce and manage clear and concise health and safety policies to provide, in detail, the responsibilities and arrangements for health and safety. All staff have a responsibility to ensure they are aware of their roles and responsibilities in terms of health and safety. We will work with all stakeholders to prevent accidents and work-related ill health where practicable.

The college will provide information, instruction, and training to ensure that staff are competent to complete any roles assigned to them, without prejudicing the safety or health of themselves, or anyone who could be affected by their work.

We will collaborate with our students, contractors, professional bodies, and other universities to our mutual benefit, and be open with our decisions and communication on health and safety issues. Consultation will be carried out with relevant parties before fundamental changes are made to any aspect of the health and safety management system.

The senior management of the college is committed to this policy and its implementation. We expect every member of the college to share this commitment and work together with us to achieve it.

Signature

Paul Layzell
Principal

Signature

David Ashton
Deputy Principal (Operations)

Signature

Douglas Searle
Director Health and Safety
Every employee of Royal Holloway, including any individuals or companies employed by the college to carry out work, have a number of personal responsibilities regarding to health and safety. In general, this requires that they do not harm themselves or others, either by their actions or through inaction. This is both a moral and a legal duty.

Royal Holloway takes the health, safety, and welfare of its students, staff, contractors, and visitors seriously; the college expects that its students and staff also take health and safety seriously. This goes beyond an expectation to simply follow policies and procedures. To keep us all safe, individuals must take responsibility for the health and safety of themselves, their work area, and anyone else who could be affected by their work.

All individuals living or working at Royal Holloway are expected to:

- Work and act safely at all times to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of all students, staff, visitors and contractors.
- Cooperate with the college to meet its health and safety duties.
- Familiarise themselves with the college and local health and safety arrangements for the places that they work, including any relevant Policy sections, the location of fire exits, names of the first aiders, and who their Health and Safety Coordinator (HSC) is.
- Inform the College, usually through their HSC, of any hazards or risks that have not been identified or that require additional controls.
- Report any accidents, incidents, or near misses that you witness or are involved in.
- Complete any health and safety training assigned to them in a timely fashion.
- Wear any Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) they are required to use during operations as and when specified and in the manner in which they have been instructed.
- Visually inspect any vehicle, equipment, or PPE, prior to use to ensure that it appears to be in good working order.
- Attend any health surveillance appointments specified and follow any guidance given by the occupational health professionals.

For those who work off site, either in the field or at a site owned or operated by another organisation:

- Comply with local health, safety, and welfare procedures in addition to those specified by the college.
- Ensure that they have received travel health advice for locations outside of the UK and that they have received all vaccinations recommended.
- That travel is planned to minimise the risk to their health, safety, and welfare.

You are expected to take reasonable steps to keep yourself and others safe and cooperate with the college in fulfilling its duty to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of its students, staff, contractors, and visitors.
Roles and Responsibilities

Every person is responsible for themselves, the work under their control, those students, staff, and contractors they manage or supervise, and for any people who could be affected by their actions or omissions. The college has a legal duty to its students, staff, contractors, and visitors and this cascades down the line management chain from the Principal to individuals.

Part 1: Health and Safety Assurance Structure

The health and safety assurance chain is outlined in Appendix 1. Assurance reports will be completed, usually annually, at each stage of the assurance chain that will then be reviewed at the stage above. Assurance reports from individual risk areas will be reviewed by the Health and Safety Management Committee, which will produce an annual report for Executive Board. This will then be reviewed by the Audit Risk and Compliance Committee.

Council

1. Council will seek assurance that health and safety is being appropriately managed through the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee and People Committee, as appropriate.

The Executive Board

2. The Executive Board is accountable for the management of health and safety at the college and in particular that Health and Safety Policies are appropriately reviewed and approved.

As the committee with executive authority for the management of all college business, the Executive Board is the highest source of oversight and approval for the health and safety management system.

Executive Board is accountable for the approval of health and safety policies, but delegates low and medium risk areas to the Management Committee. High risk policies will be reviewed by Executive Board in line with timescales outlined in the Consultation and Communication Policy.

3. The Executive Board is accountable for ensuring they have assurance that the college is applying appropriate health and safety management throughout its activities, including the provision of suitable health and safety training.

The Executive Board is accountable but may delegate responsibility for some areas to the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Management Committee.

Health, Safety and Wellbeing Management Committee

The responsibilities below are undertaken on behalf of the Executive Board. It is more generally referred to as the Management Committee.

4. The Management Committee is responsible for providing the Executive Board with assurance that health and safety is being managed appropriately.
This will be completed through the scrutiny of reports and presentations from working groups, committees, groups and individuals responsible for the management or oversight of high and medium risk activities. Each area should be considered a minimum of once per year.

5. The Management Committee is responsible for approving low and medium risk health and safety policies.

This has been delegated from the Executive Board to ensure that health and safety policies are given a level of scrutiny appropriate to the level of risk.

6. The Management Committee is accountable for ensuring that fire safety processes and procedures are appropriate.

7. The Management Committee is accountable for monitoring the provision of health and safety training to ensure that staff are competent to complete the health and safety aspects of their role.

8. The Chair of the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Management Committee will provide an annual assurance report to the Executive Board.

This report should cover the main work of the Committee over the previous year including the progress against the Health and Safety Strategic Plan, an update of the Health and Safety Risk Register, and a summary of the reports from the applicable working groups, committees and individuals overseeing key risk areas.

Health and Safety Consultative Group

9. The Health and Safety Consultative Group will provide a forum for consultation on health and safety policies and changes to the health and safety management system.

10. The Director of Health, Safety and Business Continuity will chair the Health and Safety Consultative Group.

The purpose of the Consultative Group is to meet the statutory requirement for the college to consult with its employees on health and safety-related issues as required by the Safety Representatives and Safety Committees Regulations 1977 and the Health and Safety (Consultation with Employees) Regulations 1996.

The college recognises health and safety representatives appointed by UCU, UNITE and GMB. Representatives of the Students’ Union are also invited to represent the student body. The membership will also include non-union members representing the key areas within the college.

The group is not part of the health and safety assurance chain, but issues identified can be escalated to the Management Committee if required.
Part 2: Health and Safety Responsibilities

The college health and safety Responsibility, Accountability, Consulted, and Informed (RACI) matrix can be found in Appendix 2.

Principal

11. The Principal is responsible for the management of health and safety at the college, including ensuring that risks are identified and managed appropriately.

12. The Principal is accountable for: the implementation of the health and safety management system by Schools and Professional Services, that an appropriate accident and incident management system is in place, and for signing the college Health and Safety Policy Statement.

Deputy Principal (Operations)

13. The Deputy Principal (Operations) is responsible for the monitoring of health and safety management at the college, on behalf of the Principal.

14. The Deputy Principal (Operations) is responsible for ensuring that effective health and safety management arrangements are in place within Professional Services, that sufficient resources are provided, and that any health and safety issues are escalated if required.

15. The Deputy Principal (Operations) will ensure that health and safety groups, committees or other appropriate meetings are held to discuss health and safety concerns within the remit of Professional Services.

Chief Financial Officer

16. The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for ensuring that sufficient financial resources are allocated to complete safety critical and life safety maintenance and compliance works.

Executive Deans

17. Executive Dean are responsible for ensuring that effective health and safety management arrangements are in place within their School, including ensuring Heads of Department have sufficient resources and escalating health and safety issues.

Executive Dean are the most senior member of staff within each School and have overall accountability for the implementation of the college’s health and safety policies and procedures within their School. They may delegate the day-to-day responsibility for health and safety to individuals within their School but remain ultimately responsible.

18. Executive Dean will ensure that health and safety groups, committees or other appropriate meetings are held to discuss health and safety concerns within the School.
This can be completed through the School Board, Department level meetings, or any other format that gives the Executive Dean sufficient assurance that health and safety is being effectively managed. Such meetings should be held termly as a minimum.

**Head of the London Graduate School**

19. The Head of the London Graduate School is responsible for ensuring that effective health and safety management arrangements are in place within the Central London Campus.

This covers Bedford Square and the buildings or areas being used within the University of London, such as Senate House. As such, this will involve a large degree of cooperation and communication with stakeholders both within and outside of the college.

**Heads of Department**

20. Heads of Department are responsible for ensuring that effective health and safety management arrangements are in place within their Department, including ensuring that sufficient Health and Safety Coordinators and Fire Marshalls have been appointed in their area.

Heads of Department are accountable to the Executive Dean for the implementation of the college’s health and safety policies and procedures within their Department. They must have a clear understanding and oversight of the operations and activities conducted in their Department.

21. Heads of Department must ensure that sufficient resources are available to manage health and safety within their Department and escalate any concerns.

This includes providing reasonable adjustments for staff within the Department to allow them to work safely and without risk to their health. For example, the provision of equipment identified within a Display Screen Equipment (DSE) assessment.

Heads of Department are expected to escalate any issues to either their Executive Dean or the Health and Safety Office as appropriate.

22. Heads of Department must ensure that there are sufficient competent people in their area to manage the health and safety risks.

The number of competent people and the training required will depend on the risks present in the Department. In some cases, it may be appropriate for several Departments to share roles, such as when multiple Departments inhabit the same building or where an appointment is made at School level to cover several Departments.

This could include basic health and safety roles, such as risk assessors, COSHH assessors, and manual handling assessors, or they may be more specialist roles such as those covering biological, radiological, or laser safety.
Heads of Department should walk their estate a minimum of every 6 months with a departmental or School HSC to check that all buildings and outside areas are safe and that any issues are being reported and rectified in a timely manner.

**Directors of Professional Services**

23. Directors of Professional Services are responsible for ensuring that effective health and safety management arrangements are in place within their department, including ensuring that sufficient Health and Safety Coordinators and Fire Marshalls have been appointed in their area.

Directors of Professional Services are accountable to the Deputy Principal (Operations) for the implementation of the college's health and safety policies and procedures within their department. They must have a clear understanding and oversight of the operations and activities conducted in their department.

24. Directors of Professional Services must ensure that sufficient resources are available to manage health and safety within their department and escalate any concerns.

They are expected to escalate any issues to either the Deputy Principal (Operations) or the Health and Safety Office as appropriate.

This includes providing reasonable adjustments for staff within the department to allow them to work safely and without risk to their health. For example, the provision of equipment identified within a DSE assessment.

25. Directors of Professional Services must ensure that there are sufficient competent people in their area to manage the health and safety risks.

The number of competent people, and the training required, will depend on the risk profile of the Department. In some cases it may be appropriate for several Departments to share roles, such as when multiple Departments inhabit the same building or where an appointment is made at Directorate level to cover several departments.

Roles could include basic health and safety roles such as risk assessors or more specialist roles such as providing travel risk advice.

Directors of Professional Services should walk their estate a minimum of every six months with a HSC from their area to check that all buildings and outside areas are safe and that any issues are being reported and rectified in a timely manner.

**Director of Estates**

26. The Director of Estates must ensure that health and safety is central to all stages of the design and implementation of college construction and refurbishment projects.

27. The Director of Estates must ensure that Security has sufficient resources to provide the required response to identified emergencies.
Head of Security

28. The Head of Security must ensure that there are suitable processes and procedures in place to ensure that Security responds appropriately to identified emergencies.

Director of Health, Safety and Business Continuity

The Director of Health, Safety and Business Continuity is the competent person for health and safety as defined in law. They will provide specialist technical advice to the Principal and college management as required on health and safety legislation, guidance, and best practice. They will liaise with regulatory bodies, such as the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the Environment Agency (EA), as required.

The Director of Health, Safety and Business Continuity will provide reports and presentations to Council sub-committees and college management committees, including the Executive Board, as required.

29. The Director of Health, Safety and Business Continuity is responsible for the management of fire safety, including the appointment of a competent technical specialist.

30. The Director of Health, Safety and Business Continuity must ensure that there are sufficient competent people within the Health and Safety Office to manage the identified risks.

Health and Safety Coordinators

31. Health and Safety Coordinators are responsible for providing health and safety advice within their area, and assisting with or completing risk assessments and investigating accidents and incidents as required.

Appointed by the Executive Dean, a Head of Department or Director of a Professional Service to coordinate the health and safety management arrangements within a defined area. This role will likely be supplemental to their main role.

It is not the role of the HSC to complete all risk assessments within a department or area. They may complete risk assessments for work covering the whole of the department or for specific high risk tasks, depending on their role. HSC will provide advice and assistance to those completing assessments for their own work but the level of involvement will vary.

32. Health and Safety Coordinators are responsible for escalating issues beyond their level of competence to the Health and Safety office.

Health and Safety Coordinators (HSC) may be given different titles, such as Technical Operations Manager or Production Manager, but the role remains the same. The amount of technical knowledge, and how much of their role is taken up by health and safety, will depend on the risks present in their area.
### Fire Marshalls

33. **Fire Marshalls** must ensure that, in the event of a fire alarm, everyone in their area of responsibility has left the building to a place of safety.

This may involve assisting those who require assistance, up to and including using an evacuation chair if trained to do so. If, for whatever reason, they are unable to ensure everyone can evacuate they must inform the emergency services on their arrival.

### First Aiders

34. **First Aiders** must provide fire aid to students, staff, visitors, contractors, or members of the public if they require or request assistance.

First aiders are not required to treat people if they do not feel they are competent to do so. In these instances they would be expected to inform either another first aider, including Security, or the emergency services.

### Line Managers

35. **Line Managers** are responsible for the implementation of the health and safety management system in their area.

Line Managers are any members of staff in a supervisory position over other students, members of staff or contractors, including Principal Investigators. They are accountable for the health and safety of the people, activities and projects they supervise. They must be aware of the health and safety issues and control measures relevant to their activities and projects and ensure that a risk assessment is in place prior to commencing any hazardous activity. They must comply with any of the college's health and safety policies or procedures applicable to them.

This includes ensuring that all new staff complete their health and safety induction and that any required health and safety training is completed by those they manage.

### All Staff

36. **Staff** are responsible for following guidance, policies, processes or procedures provided by the college to ensure their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by their actions or omissions.

Individual members of staff are expected to understand and comply with the Individual Responsibilities outlined at the start of this document. After investigation, where an individual is found to have failed to comply with the stated requirements, or any other reasonable management request in terms of health and safety, this may result in disciplinary action.

37. **Health and safety is everyone’s responsibility.** As such, all staff, regardless of grade are expected to challenge, rectify, make safe, or report any unsafe act or condition they may witness.
38. Where staff are working from home it must not have a disproportionate effect on their health and safety.

Homeworking is an area where there is limited guidance from the Health and Safety Executive. The key concerns outlined for workers is the use of Display Screen Equipment use. The college has no control over an individual’s home but it is expected that staff will keep their home-work area safe. In addition, staff are expected to raise any concerns with their Line Manager or the Health and Safety Office.

All Line Managers are expected to support staff homeworking to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, doing so is not at detriment to their health and safety.

Contractors

39. Contractors are responsible for following guidance, policies, processes or procedures as provided by the college to ensure their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by their actions or omissions.

Contractors are those paid to complete work on behalf of the college, including agency staff and consultants. All contractors must treat the college’s arrangements and procedures as minimum standards to adhere to and follow appropriate industry guidance and best practice at all times. Failure to comply could influence the awarding of future contracts by the college.

Visitors

40. Visitors must follow any instructions provided to safeguard their own and others health and safety.

Visitors are people invited onto to campus for a purpose other than completing paid work on behalf of the college. Students are not classed as visitors.

Arrangements

41. The Director of Health, Safety and Business Continuity will create and update a health and safety risk register, including required remedial actions.

The health and safety risk register should be used to inform decisions on the health and safety resources and priorities.

42. The Director of Health, Safety and Business Continuity will create a strategic improvement plan for the Health and Safety Office each year and provide updates to the Management Committee on its progress.

The strategic plan should be challenging but achievable.

43. The Director of Health, Safety and Business Continuity must create and publish detailed arrangements for how risk assessment will be completed within the college.
The Director of Health, Safety and Business Continuity will ensure that a system is in place to manage the recording and investigation of accidents and incidents. The system must include a means of capturing any improvements required and ensuring they are actioned.

This should include a mechanism to identify and report any events as required by Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR).

In general, accidents and incidents should be investigated locally by a HSC and reviewed by the Health and Safety Office. For more complex or serious incidents, the Health and Safety Office may directly investigate.

The Director of Health, Safety and Business Continuity will create a process for the creation, consultation, publication and review of health and safety policies covering the topics they deem necessary.

The detailed arrangements for dealing with specific health and safety topics are covered in the appropriate policies, which are available on the College Health and Safety Office website.

Details of these policies and procedures and how they will be written, reviewed, approved and how consultation will be carried out can be found in the Consultation and Communication Policy.

The Director of Health, Safety and Business Continuity must ensure that suitable and sufficient training courses are provided to meet the requirements of the college.

This includes general induction training, mandatory training, role specific training, and specialist training as required. This should cover staff, contractors, visitors, and where appropriate students.

The Director of Health, Safety and Business Continuity must ensure that a suitable system is implemented to identify hazards requiring health surveillance and ensure that those staff and students affected are provided with appointments with a competent person at appropriate intervals.

Human Resources provides the resource for occupational health, including health surveillance, but the system and process is managed by the Health and Safety Office.
Measuring Performance

48. The Director of Health, Safety and Business Continuity will write Key Performance Indicators for health and safety and update both the Management Committee and Executive Board on its progress.

49. The Director of Health, Safety and Business Continuity will manage an assurance framework to ensure that the Principal and Executive Board are provided with assurance that health and safety is being managed appropriately.

   This will include reviewing compliance with College health and safety policies and procedures, statutory requirements, relevant technical standards, or other best practice.

   The Health and Safety Director is expected to highlight deficiencies to the Executive Board with sufficient details to allow risk based decisions to be made on what action is reasonably practicable.

50. The Director of Health, Safety and Business Continuity is responsible for implementing a system to track outstanding actions required to improve health and safety, including audit actions.

51. The Health and Safety Officer (Compliance) will specify the mandatory regulatory inspections required for college equipment and infrastructure and will audit compliance as required.

Douglas Searle
Director of Health, Safety and Business Continuity
Version 7

Approved by: Executive Board
Date: 11 May 2021
To be reviewed: before May 2022

Appendixes:

Appendix 1. Health and Safety Assurance Chain
Appendix 2. Health and Safety RACI Matrix
## Roles and Responsibilities

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Health and Safety Coordinators

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32 Health and Safety Coordinators are responsible for escalating issues beyond their level of competence to the Health and Safety office.

Fire Marshalls

33 Fire Marshalls must ensure that in the event of a fire alarm everyone in their area of responsibility has left the building to a place of safety.

First Aiders

34 First Aiders must provide fire aid to students, staff, visitors, contractors, or members of the public if they require or request assistance.

Director of Health, Safety and Business Continuity

10 The Director of Health and Safety will chair the Health and Safety Consultative Group.

29 The Director of Health and Safety is responsible for the management of fire safety, including the appointment of a competent technical specialist.

30 The Director of Health and Safety must ensure that there are sufficient competent people within the Health and Safety Office to manage the identified risks.

41 The Director of Health and Safety will create and update a health and safety risk register, including required remedial actions.

42 The Director of Health and Safety will create a strategic improvement plan for the Health and Safety Office each year and provide updates to the Management Committee on its progress.

43 The Director of Health and Safety must create and publish detailed arrangements for how risk assessment will be completed within the college.

44 The Director of Health and Safety will ensure that a system is in place to manage the recording and investigation of accidents and incidents. The system must include a means of capturing any improvements required and ensuring they are actioned.

45 The Director of Health and Safety will create a process for the creation, consultation, publication and review of health and safety policies covering the topics they deem necessary.

46 The Director of Health and Safety must ensure that suitable and sufficient training courses are provided to meet the requirements of the college.

47 The Director of Health and Safety must ensure that a suitable system is implemented to identify hazards requiring health surveillance and ensure that those staff and students effected are provided with appointments with a competent person at appropriate intervals.

48 The Director of Health and Safety will write Key Performance Indicators for health and safety and update both the Management Committee and Executive Board on its progress.
The Director of Health and Safety will manage an assurance framework to ensure that the Principal and Executive Board are provided with assurance that health and safety is being managed appropriately.

The Director of Health and Safety is responsible for implementing a system to track outstanding actions required to improve health and safety, including audit actions.

Health and Safety Officer (Compliance)

Health and Safety Officer (Compliance) will specify the mandatory regulatory inspections required for college equipment and infrastructure and will audit compliance as required.

Committees

Council

1. Council will seek assurance that health and safety is being appropriately managed through the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee and People Committee, as appropriate.

Executive Board

2. The Executive Board is accountable for the management of health and safety at the college and in particular that Health and Safety Policies are appropriately reviewed and approved.

3. The Executive Board is accountable for ensuring they have assurance that the college is applying appropriate health and safety management throughout its activities, including the provision of suitable health and safety training.

Health, Safety and Wellbeing Management Committee

4. The Management Committee is responsible for providing the Executive Board with assurance that health and safety is being managed appropriately.

5. The Management Committee is responsible for approving low and medium risk health and safety policies.

6. The Management Committee is accountable for ensuring that fire safety processes and procedures are appropriate.

7. The Management Committee is accountable for monitoring the provision of health and safety training to ensure that staff are competent to complete the health and safety aspects of their role.

8. The Chairman of the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Management Committee will provide an annual assurance report to the Executive Board.

Health and Safety Consultative Group

9. The Health and Safety Consultative Group will provide a forum for consultation on health and safety policies and changes to the health and safety management system.
Appendix 1: Health and Safety Assurance Framework
## Appendix 2: Health and Safety RACI Matrix

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<th>Area / Sub Area</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>Accountable</th>
<th>Consulted</th>
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