



Prevent Policy

1. INTRODUCTION, PURPOSE & SCOPE

- 1.1 The [Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015](#) requires Higher Education providers to 'have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. The [Prevent Duty guidance for higher education institutions in England and Wales](#) was issued in 2015 and updated in April 2021. Royal Holloway acknowledges these requirements and is committed to uphold the statutory duty to have due regard to the risk of people within its community being drawn into radicalisation and terrorism.
- 1.2 Prevent is one of the four elements of [CONTEST](#), the Government's counter-terrorism strategy and is centred on safeguarding and supporting those individuals who may become vulnerable to radicalisation. Prevent aims to stop individuals become terrorists or supporting terrorism or terrorist activities. The strategy has three objectives (i) tackle the causes of radicalisation and response to the ideological challenge of terrorism, (ii) safeguard and support those most at risk of radicalisation through early intervention, identifying them and offering support and (iii) enabling those who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate with support. The delivery of Prevent is led by the Home Office working with local authorities, public services, and community organisations
- 1.3 The University is cognisant of our role in protecting students and staff from harm whilst maintaining our commitment to freedom of speech, academic freedom, and the importance of the ongoing promotion of equal opportunities for all. It also recognises the importance of pre-existing legislation including the [Education Act 1986](#), the [Education Reform Act 1988](#), the [Human Rights Act 1998](#), and the [Equality Act 2010](#).
- 1.4 The Prevent Policy applies to all staff, students at the University and sets out how we are complying with the Prevent Duty and our accountability process. In the context of this policy, the term 'students' is intended to include students on an apprenticeship programme.

2. APPROACH

- 2.1 The University has taken a risk-based approach to the Prevent duty and considers that preventing people from being drawn into radicalisation is fundamentally a safeguarding duty and the Prevent Duty should be implemented in a proportionate and risk-based way as part of our existing policies and procedures.
- 2.2 The health, safety and wellbeing of our students, staff and wider University community is our priority and the University and Students' Union are committed to maintaining our position as a supportive, inclusive, and welcoming learning environment with an open and holistic approach to student mental health and wellbeing where everyone in our community has a responsibility for looking after themselves and others and to alerting us to concerns when they arise.

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 College Council has overall responsibility for the University's compliance with the Prevent Duty and an annual report of assurance is provided to Council. Council is responsible for approving the annual accountability and monitoring return to the Office for Students in compliance with the conditions of our registration with them, and for the accountability required for the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills for apprenticeships.
- 3.2 College Council delegates responsibility to the internal Prevent Committee chaired by the Principal to manage the operational and support requirements of the Prevent Duty. Under the direction of the

Prevent Committee the Prevent Lead will have responsibility for the day-to-day obligations required by the Duty.

- 3.3** All members of staff should be aware of our responsibilities under the Prevent Duty and of the measures taken by the University to comply with it. We ask that all members of the College community (students, staff and visitors) remain alert to the behaviour and presentation of others in our community and to the signs of vulnerability that may lead to radicalisation and commit to doing what they can to ensure the health and wellbeing, safety and support of students. Behaviours and vulnerabilities do not necessarily mean someone is being radicalised and there could be other explanations for the behaviour you notice. However, it is important to remain alert and reach out to discuss concerns (*see also: 5. Raising Concerns*).

4. PREVENT DUTY GUIDANCE

- 4.1 External Speakers and Events:** The University is committed to the principles of academic freedom and of free speech within the law. Opportunities to engage with a wide range of thought-provoking opinions and perspectives are encouraged and welcomed. We regularly invite a wide range of speakers to events both on and off campus and each year both the College and the Students' Union run a successful programme of events. All staff and students who arrange events or invite external speakers to talk at events should familiarise themselves with the Freedom of Speech policy, the procedure for inviting external speakers to College events and the Student's Union processes for clubs and societies.
- 4.2 Partnerships:** The University maintains proactive engagement with all Prevent partners including Surrey County Council (as a member of the Prevent Executive Group), Runnymede Borough Council, Surrey Police (and other forces as required) and the regional HE & FE Prevent Co-ordinator. We maintain information sharing agreements with all relevant parties to enable this partnership approach, to support safeguarding and the prevention and detection of crime and to discharge our duties under the Prevent Duty. The Students' Union are a key partner and are consulted on all arrangements for upholding our statutory duty.
- 4.3 Risk Assessment & Action Plan:** The University reviews a Prevent risk assessment each year and develops an action plan based on this assessment to mitigate risk and support the prevention of people being drawn into radicalisation and terrorism. The risk assessment considers policies and processes which support campus security, student health and wellbeing, equality & diversity, IT and the physical management of the University estate in Egham and London.
- 4.4 Staff training:** Key student facing University staff (academic and professional services) are identified to undertake Prevent e-learning to understand how to recognise vulnerability in students and apprentices; to know how to share and escalate concerns; to be able to ensure a proportionate and appropriate early intervention is in place; and to safeguard and protect students and apprentices from harm or criminal behaviour.
- 4.5 Welfare and pastoral care / chaplaincy support:** The University has a broad range of wellbeing services accessible to all students and each student is allocated a personal tutor as part of this support. The multi-faith chaplaincy team sits within the Wellbeing department and fosters our multi-faith approach working with people of all faiths or none, in support of our Equality and Diversity policies, and provides space on campus for worship, prayer and reflection. The College recognises the importance of safeguarding and supporting our students, apprentices and our community and the provision of mental health and wellbeing support and campus security is pivotal to this. Students are encouraged to seek support and advice for any matters of concern about their safety and wellbeing.
- 4.6 IT policies:** The University has in place Information Technology policies which require all users to behave in a responsible, ethical equitable and legal manner and to ensure all users are aware that network administrators, in order to ensure proper network operations, routinely monitor network traffic.

4.7 Students' Unions and societies: Royal Holloway Students' Union and affiliated student clubs and societies are governed by their own published policies and guidelines in accordance with its status as a registered charity and as managed by their Board of Trustees. The University works closely with the SU on all matters as part of our shared commitment to a safe and rewarding academic and student experience.

5. RAISING CONCERNS

- 5.1** Members of our community who are concerned that a student may be at risk of being drawn into radicalisation or terrorism should follow processes under the [Safeguarding Policy](#) via the Department or School Responsible Person or via the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Prevent Lead. Concerns about a member of staff who may be at risk of being drawn into radicalisation or terrorism should be discussed with the Director of Human Resources and / or their Head of School or Professional Service. The Head of Wellbeing acts as the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Prevent Lead and can be contacted at safeguarding@royalholloway.ac.uk.
- 5.2** If it is believed that a student is at immediate or imminent risk, or that they may pose a risk to themselves or others this should be reported as a cause for concern. In an emergency this can be reported to the Police on 999 and then Campus Security team (ext. 4063). You should then inform the Head of Security and Head of Wellbeing (DSL & Prevent Lead).
- 5.3** All other concerns should be reported to the Wellbeing department for assessment of risk and for prompt support or intervention and will be treated sensitively and with discretion. The Wellbeing department will also be able to provide guidance, signposting and referral to external specialist services and will seek advice from relevant external agencies as required to ensure a proportionate response
- 5.4** If you're worried about someone, you can call the Prevent advice line 0800 011 3764, in confidence, to share your concerns with their specially trained officers. This advice line is available every day 9:00am – 5:00pm. Calls outside of these hours will be transferred to specialist Counter Terrorism officers.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

If anyone considers that this policy has not been followed or for further information on the interpretation and application of the statement please contact the policy owner.

Policy Owner.	Head of Wellbeing & Prevent Lead.
Approving Body.	Prevent Committee.
Related policies, procedures and guidelines.	(i) Safeguarding Policy. (ii) Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech. (iii) Procedure for inviting external speakers to College events. (iv) Acceptable Use of Information Technology. (v) Information Security Policy. (vi) Student Conduct Regulations. (vii) Research Ethics Policy.
Approved on.	February 2022.
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