



London College of Business Studies

PREVENT POLICY & PROCEDURE

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Introduction

This policy has been formulated in response to HM Government Prevent Duty Guidance for Higher Education Colleges in England and Wales. This guidance was updated by the department and is the subject of the duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which applies to specified authorities including schools and colleges.

According to the government and security services, the UK is 'highly likely' to be confronted with terrorist attack. The threat level has been 'severe' at times and irrespective of the threat level, the College aims to have an effective prevent policy and procedure in place for it to be able to play its part in the reduction of such risks. Media reports of young people leaving their studies to become involved in terrorism, either here in Britain or overseas, have led to increased concerns about radicalisation and extremism in the Higher education sector.

Higher education and skills providers have been placed under a legal duty to have 'due regard' to the risk of learners being drawn into terrorism. The government issued specific guidance that clarifies what it expects higher education providers to deliver to comply with this duty. The 'Prevent' duty guidance makes clear the important role of higher education leaders in stopping extremists seeking to radicalise learners on campuses and in supporting learners at risk of extremist influences.

- Are providers ensuring that external speakers and events are appropriately risk assessed to safeguard learners?
- Are the partnerships between different agencies effective in identifying and reducing the spread of extremist influences?
- Are providers assessing the risks that their learners may face, and taking effective action to reduce these risks?
- Are learners being protected from inappropriate use of the internet and social media?
- To what extent are staff training and pastoral/welfare support contributing to learners' safety?

1. Leadership, Direction and Process

London College of Business Studies (The College) acknowledges and accepts its legal duty to have due regard to the risk of people being drawn into terrorism. It also believes that individuals being drawn into terrorism is a form of harm and accepts the obligations arising from the Prevent legislation as an important element of its general duty to protect its staff and students from all forms of harm. This means that our prevent policy will not only protect our staff and students from individuals that are likely to draw them into extremism but will also help any individuals that may have already been drawn into extremism and need guidance and support.

1.1 The College must balance the requirements of Prevent with its core belief that the cultural religious and ethnic diversity of students and staff should be celebrated.

1.2 The College must also meet its legal and moral obligation to allow and promote academic freedom and free speech which are vital elements of a successful community of students, Lecturers and all other staff who support them. All of this has to be done within the obligations of prevent and should not in any way result into a breach of the prevent duty.

1.3 Depending on the scale of operations, the College will be carrying out a wide-ranging risk assessment to determine its capacity to prevent the possible risks of radicalisation or involvement in extremist activity.

1.4 The Board of Trustees will ensure that they adopt an active role in the implementation of the duty, by arranging the training (Prevent Awareness Training and other Training) of appropriate staff, wide dissemination of the policy and the responsibilities related to it and allowing for an effective and efficient liaison between the College and other concerned bodies such as the Police, OfS and related prevent co-ordinators.

1.5 A single point of contact, the Prevent Officer, will be appointed in order to ensure that all stakeholders are aware of who to get in touch in relation to the duty. The officer should be a person with authority and who is able to make use of the authority whenever required in order to allow for a smooth implementation of the duty. The College plans to have the Head of Administration as the Prevent Officer. The Prevent Officer will take majority of the responsibility in facilitating the implementation of the Policy.

1.6 The policy will be made available and communicated publicly through all forums (learner portal, website, handbooks etc) to students and staff in order to ensure that this is understood and also reviewed effectively in response to feedback from staff and students and any issues that may have come into light.

1.7 The College will keep a close eye on the content and the person responsible for sharing content on its social media pages and Learner Portal to ensure no extremist views are expressed or no such forums are created that draw other students into terrorism.

1.8 The College will incorporate information and discussion on Prevent Duty during staff and student induction.

2. Teaching and Learning

The College ensures that the teaching and learning activities are monitored in order to ensure these are performed in accordance with the College's obligation towards Prevent Duty.

2.1 College promotes British Values such as equality, diversity and inclusion, wellbeing and community cohesion throughout the College through its policies and procedures.

2.2 The teaching material handed out or shared through the student portal is scrutinised for relevance to the programmes being offered and its content is reviewed for existence of any extremist aspects.

2.3 The lecturers are required to submit copies of the lesson plans, which contain contents being delivered, for every lesson to the Head of Academics for review.

2.4 The Academic Team also conducts lesson observations and peer observations to review and monitor the teaching and approaches being used by the tutors.

2.5 Students are also encouraged to report any suspected extremist related teaching content through their student representation or directly to the Prevent Officer or Student Welfare Officer.

3. All Staff

All staff at the College have a responsibility to create and support an ethos that upholds the College's mission, vision and British Values, to create an environment of respect, equality and diversity and inclusion. All staff members must take steps to understand the Prevent duty for it to be implemented and in order to be aware of the skills to recognise those who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, involved in violent or non-violent extremism, and to know the appropriate action to take if they have concerns. They must report any concerns around extremism or radicalisation to the Prevent Officer or the Prevent coordinator in case the concern relates to the management of the College. Staff should take active steps to report and remove any literature displayed around the College that could cause offense or promote extremist views. All staff members will support the development of learner understanding of the issues around extremism and radicalisation.

4. Risk Assessment

College will conduct risk assessment in response to its Prevent Duty. The risk assessment will aim to assess;

- where and how the students might be at risk of being drawn into terrorism (violent or non-violent extremism)
- College's Policies related to Student Welfare and Equality and Diversity to ensure these are fit for purpose and invite an inclusive environment for students and staff to understand and accept differing cultures and customs
- If applicable, assess the risk of having any expected external speakers that may possess any extremist views
- If applicable, assess the risk of any expected events that may facilitate the sharing of extremist views
- If applicable, assess any events that may be held externally to ensure that any extremist views or influences are not held at through the event.
- Review the partnership arrangement with any other bodies in order to assess that these do not in any way constitute to a risk of learners or staff being drawn into terrorism or represent the College as being associated with any such groups.

5. Action Plan

The College will also devise an action plan in response to the identified risks and all efforts will be made to minimise the risks.

6. Code of Practice for Ensuring Freedom of Speech within the Law

Freedom of expression and equality are foundational rights, whose realisation is essential for the enjoyment and protection of all human rights. The College believes that freedom of expression and academic freedom are vital to the academic success and must be fully reflected in both its policies and practices.

Our approach is to enable and promote free speech and encourage debate of all kinds. The only exception is where there are serious concerns about public disorder or the direct incitement of violence or hatred.

This means that there must be an atmosphere of free and open discussion. The College supports the view of the European Court of Human Rights that freedom of expression constitutes one of the essential foundations of a democratic society and that such freedom is applicable not only to information or ideas that are favourably received, but also to those that have the potential to offend, shock or disturb the listener. Staff and students primarily determine the subjects and topics of discussion that take place on campus. Pluralism, tolerance and broadmindedness are essential components of a democratic society, and all views, including those that can be difficult to hear, should be able to be expressed and heard with tolerance and mutual respect.

The College supports the right to hold conferences and talks on controversial topics. There is freedom to challenge or debate the law, moral or other issues but this does not give permission to break the law.

The principle of free speech has the potential to be abused, including through incitement to violence or to breaches of the peace, or by the use of threatening words or behaviour (including the display of writing, signs or other visible representations) which are intended to provoke racial or religious hatred or hatred on grounds of sexual orientation, or to encourage or draw people into terrorism.

All of our staff and students have a responsibility to consider these issues in the course of their work.

As an institution, the College is mindful of its responsibilities to ensure that its premises are not being used for unlawful purposes, including those which may negate the enjoyment of that freedom for others.

When permitting its premises to be used, the College must therefore consider what may be said. This is also reflected through the External Speakers and Events section below.

The College is not obliged to allow its premises to be used by members of the public or by organisations which might wish to do so, nor is it obliged to admit members of the public to meetings taking place on its premises (providing that it does not exclude on a discriminatory basis) and must take account of other legal obligations, including those around the bounds of lawful speech and assemblies that may lead to serious disorder or breaches of the peace.

7. External Speakers and Events

Paragraphs 7-15 of the [Prevent Duty Guidance](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445916/Prevent_Duty_Guidance_For_Higher_Education_England_Wales_.pdf) focus on external speakers and events. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445916/Prevent_Duty_Guidance_For_Higher_Education_England_Wales_.pdf

The guidance states that "The RHEB (the College in this case) clearly needs to balance its legal duties in terms of both ensuring freedom of speech and academic freedom, and also protecting student and staff welfare." and goes on to say that "Encouragement of terrorism and inviting support for a proscribed terrorist organisation are both criminal offences. RHEBs should not provide a platform for these offences to be committed."

The College has a special role in promoting and encouraging vigorous debate, free speech and freedom of enquiry within the law. Protection of **academic freedom** recognises that academic staff have the right to explore unpopular or controversial subjects and opinions in their teaching even though students may find them challenging or unpalatable. Academic staff must, however, ensure that their teaching delivery does not discriminate against or cause harassment of any student on the grounds of their age, disability, ethnicity, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity status, religion and belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

At present the College does not invite external speakers to its events or for any workshops for learners. The College also does not hold any events externally. However, in such cases the following will apply;

Staff and students who wish to organise events that involve external speakers are responsible for notifying the College of the intended speakers. They are also responsible for ensuring requests are made with sufficient notice to allow the College to assess any potential risk relating to the event and make arrangements to mitigate this.

The College will also seek to ensure that external speakers and events do not provide a platform for the encouragement of terrorism or invite support for a proscribed terrorist organisation. The College will ban an external speaker or cancel an event if, in the view of the Prevent Duty, there is a significant risk of the College committing a criminal offence by allowing the external speaker to speak and/or the event to proceed. The College will discharge this duty by assessing the affiliations, links and history of the speakers and also by requesting a transcript of any speech to be delivered in advance of the event.

8. Review and Monitoring

The policy will be reviewed annually and on an ad-hoc basis if required.

Useful Contacts

Prevent Officer – Mr Asad Sarwat
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