

Regulations governing the use of computing facilities

Purpose and Context

The aim of these regulations is to ensure that the University computing facilities can be used safely, lawfully and equitably.

Scope

These regulations apply to anyone using the University computing facilities.

Introduction

The issues covered by these regulations are complex and you are strongly urged to read the accompanying guidance document, available at:

<https://www.hud.ac.uk/staff/it/policy/regulationguidance/>

This gives more detailed information that you will find useful. Any user still in doubt regarding their use of the University computing facilities must seek further advice from IT Support before proceeding (email: it.support@hud.ac.uk; tel: 01484 473737, self-service: <http://hudhelp.hud.ac.uk/>).

Definitions used in these regulations

Appropriate authority refers to the Director of Digital Information Services in respect of the general computing facilities and to the Dean of School or Director or Head of Service in respect of specific computing facilities.

Computing facilities includes:

- IT hardware that the University provides, such as PCs, laptops, tablets, smart phones and printers;
- Software that the University provides, such as operating systems, office application software, web browsers etc. It also includes software that the institution has arranged for you to have access to, for example special deals for students on commercial application packages;
- Data that the University provides, or arranges access to. This might include online journals, data sets or citation databases;
- Access to the network provided or arranged by the University. This would cover, for example, network connections on-campus, WiFi, or connectivity to the internet from University PCs and remote working solutions provided by the University including adhering to the University's [Using Your Own Device Policy](#);
- Online services arranged by the University such as Office 365 and Google Apps, JSTOR, or any of the Jisc online resources; and
- IT credentials.

General computing facilities refers to computing facilities provided or arranged by Computing and Library Services.

IT refers to 'information technology', the common term used to refer to anything related to computing technology, such as hardware, software, networking, the internet or corresponding services and support.

IT credentials means the use of your University login, or any other token (email address, smartcard, dongle) issued by the University to identify yourself when using the University computing facilities. For example, you may be able to use drop-in facilities or WiFi connectivity at other institutions using your usual username and password through the eduroam system. While doing so, you are subject to the Computing Regulations, as well as the regulations at the institution you are visiting.

Specific computing facilities refers to computing facilities provided or arranged and networks managed by a school or service.

University computing facilities means the general computing facilities and the specific computing facilities.

1. Availability

Every effort is made to ensure that University computing facilities are available in accordance with times published. In general, services like e-mail and web access are always available. However, the means of delivery might not be, depending on opening hours and the reliability of hardware and software. Occasionally, University computing facilities are unavailable because of system maintenance and upgrades; in such cases users will be informed in advance whenever possible at <http://www.hud.ac.uk/it/status/>.

Unless specific arrangements have been made e.g. for the storage of security-sensitive research data, data is periodically removed under standard procedures carried out by system managers, for example at the end of a University session. Users must make themselves familiar with the arrangements in force regarding any data they store on University computing facilities.

Except as may be required by law, the University accepts no liability for any direct, indirect or consequential loss, including loss of profits, damage, costs or expenses arising from, or relating to, acts or omissions of users of the University computing facilities, their guests, members of the public or intruders; neither does the University accept any liability for any consequences arising out of the unavailability of University computing facilities and related services, or loss of data, no matter how caused.

2 Governance

When using University computing facilities, you remain subject to the same laws and regulations as in the physical world.

It is expected that your conduct will be lawful. Furthermore, ignorance of the law is not considered to be an adequate defence for unlawful conduct.

When accessing services from another jurisdiction, you must abide by all relevant local laws, as well as those applicable to the location of the service.

You are bound by the University's general policies and regulations when using the University computing facilities, available at <https://www.hud.ac.uk/policies/>

You must abide by the regulations applicable to any other organisation whose services you access such as [Janet](#), [Eduserv](#) and [Jisc Collections](#).

When using services via eduroam, you are subject to both the regulations of the University and the institution where you are accessing services.

Some software licences procured by the University will set out obligations for the user – these should be adhered to. If you use any software or resources covered by a Chest agreement, you are deemed to have accepted the Eduserv User Acknowledgement of Third Party Rights. (See accompanying guidance for more detail.)

Breach of any applicable law or third-party regulation will be regarded as a breach of these computing regulations.

3 Authority

Authority relating to general computing facilities lies with the Director of Digital Information Services. Authority relating to specific computing facilities lies with the appropriate Dean, Director or Head of Service. These people are responsible for their interpretation and enforcement, and they may also delegate such authority to other people.

You must comply with any reasonable written or verbal instructions issued by people with delegated authority in support of these regulations. If you feel that any such instructions are unreasonable or are not in support of these regulations, you may appeal using the [Complaints Procedure](#).

Persons who are not students or employees of the University may be authorised to use University computing facilities at the absolute and sole discretion of the appropriate authority. Those who arrange access on behalf of persons who are not students or employees must ensure that they are made aware of these regulations prior to access being authorised and that they can be individually identified.

4 Intended Use

The University computing facilities are provided for use in furtherance of the business of the University; for example, to support a course of study, research or in connection with employment by the University.

Use of the University computing facilities for personal activities (provided that it does not infringe any of the regulations, and does not interfere with others' valid use) is permitted, but this is a privilege that may be withdrawn at any point. Individuals using the University computing facilities for commercial purposes do so at their own risk.

Use of the University computing facilities for non-institutional commercial purposes or for personal gain requires the explicit approval of the appropriate authority and can be revoked at any time. The University reserves the right to levy charges in accordance with University policies.

Use of certain software licences is only permitted for academic use and, where applicable, in accordance with the user obligations published by the Combined Higher Education Software Team (CHEST) <https://www.chest.ac.uk/user-obligations/>. See the accompanying guidance for further details.

The University is under a duty to prevent extremism under the [Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015](#). It has a zero-tolerance approach to acts which could incite or promote terrorist activity including, but not limited to, accessing websites that might be associated with extreme or terrorist organisations and which could attract criminal liability. For any research related activities, the University follows guidance provided by Universities UK for the handling of data related to security sensitive research.

5 Identity

You must take all reasonable precautions to safeguard any IT credentials (for example a username and password, email address, smart card or other identity hardware) issued to you. You must not allow anyone else to use your IT credentials. No-one has the authority to ask you for your password, and you must not disclose it to anyone.

You must not attempt to obtain or use anyone else's credentials.

You must not impersonate someone else or otherwise disguise your identity when using the computing facilities.

You must be prepared to identify yourself to members of staff on duty in order to help protect the integrity of the University computing facilities. Campus cards must be carried at all times when using the University computing facilities.

6 Infrastructure

You must not do anything to jeopardise the integrity of the IT infrastructure by, for example, doing any of the following without approval:

- Damaging, reconfiguring or moving equipment;
- Loading software on the University's equipment other than in approved circumstances;
- Reconfiguring or connecting equipment to the network other than by approved methods;
- Setting up servers or services on the network;
- Deliberately or recklessly introducing malware;
- Attempting to disrupt or circumvent IT security measures.

7 Information

If you handle personal, confidential or sensitive information, you must take all reasonable steps to safeguard it and must observe the University's Data Protection and Information Security policies and guidance, available at <http://www.hud.ac.uk/informationgovernance/> particularly with regard to online cloud storage, removable media, mobile, and privately owned devices.

Sensitive or confidential information should only be kept in a cloud storage service that has been approved by the University and has a Privacy Impact Assessment in place.

You must not infringe copyright, or break the terms of licences for software or other material.

You must not attempt to access, delete, modify or disclose information belonging to other people without their permission, or without the explicit approval from the appropriate authority.

You must not create, download, store or transmit unlawful material, or material that is indecent, offensive, threatening or discriminatory. The University has procedures to approve and manage valid activities involving such material; please refer to the relevant

school committee.

You must abide by any University guidelines when using the University computing facilities to publish information.

8 Behaviour

Real world standards of behaviour apply online and on social networking platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

You must not cause needless offence, concern or annoyance to others.

You should also adhere to the University's social media policy. Guidance for students is available at <https://www.hud.ac.uk/media/policydocuments/Student-Social-Media-and-Communications-Policy.pdf> and guidance for staff is available at <http://hr.hud.ac.uk/downloads/policies/pdf/1000311.pdf>.

You must not send spam (unsolicited bulk email).

You must not recklessly consume excessive IT resources such as processing power, bandwidth or consumables.

You must not use the University computing facilities in a way that interferes with others' valid use of them.

You must abide by any local regulations concerning eating or drinking in open access University computing facilities.

9 Monitoring

The University monitors and records the use of the University computing facilities including for the purposes of:

- The effective and efficient planning and operation of the University computing facilities;
- Detection and prevention of infringement of these regulations;
- Investigation of alleged misconduct.

The University will comply with lawful requests for information from government and law enforcement agencies.

You must not attempt to monitor the use of the computing facilities without explicit approval from the appropriate authority.

10 Infringement

Infringing these regulations may result in sanctions under the University's disciplinary procedures. Penalties may include withdrawal of services and/or fines. Offending material will be taken down.

Information about infringement may be passed to appropriate law enforcement agencies, and any other organisations whose regulations you have breached.

The University reserves the right to recover from you any costs incurred as a result of your infringement.

You must inform the appropriate authority or a member of staff in Computing and Library Services if you become aware of any infringement of these regulations.

POLICY SIGN-OFF AND OWNERSHIP DETAILS	
Document name:	Computing Regulations
Version Number:	1.3
Equality Impact Assessment:	March 2017
Approved by:	UTLC
Effective from:	05/08/2020
Date for Review:	May 2021
Author:	Business and Finance Manager
Owner (if different from above):	Director of Digital Information Services
Document Location:	https://www.hud.ac.uk/media/policydocuments/Computing-Regulations.pdf
Compliance Checks:	Breaches of the Regulations handled under the respective student or staff University disciplinary processes.
Related Policies/Procedures:	IT Security Policy Using Your Own Device Policy

REVISION HISTORY			
Version	Date	Revision description/ Summary of changes	Author
V1.0	April 2017	First draft using Policy Framework. Minor drafting updates.	Head of Business Quality and Planning
V1.1	February/March 2018	Inclusion of GDPR. Minor drafting updates.	Head of Business Quality and Planning
V1.2	April 2019	Minor drafting updates.	Head of Business Quality and Planning
V1.3	May 2020	Minor drafting updates.	Business and Finance Manager