



# Quick Guide on Quality Assurance

## University Legislation

### **Main principles**

The University has academic and student-related legislation documents, which contain principles and standards designed to control and/or govern conduct, or provide direction. These legislation documents include: the University Charter; Statutes; Ordinances; Regulations; Codes of Practice, policies, and associated guidance documentation.

All University staff and students are subject to University Legislation; the Charter and Statutes are at the top of this hierarchy, although most staff and students are directly affected only by Ordinances, Regulations, and Codes of Practice.

### **University Charter**

The University Charter outlines the core tenets of the University's governance, including: its establishment and legal status; its objects and powers; its governing body and key institutional officers.

### **Statutes**

Statutes set out the legal framework for the exercise of the University's powers. They outline the composition, business, and powers of the University Council and University Senate, as well as other provisions connected with the governance of the University, and the promotion of the objects of the Charter.

### **Ordinances**

Ordinances provide more detail on the exercise of powers, than in the Statutes. They establish the main elements of the University's organisational structure, and contain provisions regarding the University Senate, the University Executive Board, and College Boards.

### **Regulations**

Regulations contain principles and standards, which are designed to control or govern conduct, or provide direction at a more detailed level than Ordinances. Regulations are cohort-specific (i.e. the Regulations which apply to a student throughout their programme of study are dependant on the year in which they began their studies at the University, eg: academic session 2024-25).

## Codes of Practice, Policies and Guidance Documentation

These supplement Regulations, and set out the procedures which are to be followed in specific areas, eg: the Code of Practice on Academic Integrity, which outlines the procedures which are to be followed in instances of plagiarism and examination irregularity. Similar to Regulations, these are cohort-specific.

- Codes of Practice: Mandatory, and apply to all University staff and students. Breach of a Code of Practice may result in a disciplinary offence.
- Policies: Staff and students are expected to comply with policies. Breach of any Policies may result in a disciplinary offence.
- Guidance and other advisory documentation: Outline best practice in terms of procedures, but are advisory only (whether they are for Staff, or for students).

## Archived Legislation

The University has two categories of 'archived legislation'. The first category is cohort legislation which could still be in use (eg: due to students from that entry cohort remaining registered with the University), but is no longer updated. The second category is for legislation which is no longer being used (i.e. all University Legislation from the 2015-16 academic session and before, which was published prior to the introduction of cohort legislation, is archived and is no longer in use).

## Changes to Legislation

University Legislation may need to be amended occasionally, either to reflect external requirements (eg: those of professional or accrediting bodies), or because a change to policy and/or practice has been agreed internally. Consideration will be given to whether any proposed change should apply to all legislation, or to a specific cohort legislation. Depending on its nature, students will normally be consulted, or informed, about the change.

## Further information

For more information regarding University Legislation, and to view University Legislation, visit:

<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/registry/legislation/index.aspx>