



Veterinary Medicine Diversity Summer School Code of Conduct

Last Updated March 2026

Purpose

We aim to ensure that every student participating in the Veterinary Medicine Diversity Summer School has a safe and enjoyable time in Edinburgh. Our goal is for students to develop their academic skills and experience student life in our vibrant community. This can only be achieved within a framework of mutual trust, respect, and confidence between students and staff, where everyone's rights are observed, regardless of their background and circumstances.

This Code of Conduct sets out:

- The standards of behaviour we expect from students
- What students can expect and our ground rules
- What is considered student misconduct
- Consequences resulting from student misconduct
- How to report issues and concerns
- Key contacts

This Code of Conduct applies to all students participating in the Veterinary Medicine Diversity Summer School and encompasses:

- Activities which take place on the University of Edinburgh campus including areas such as classrooms, accommodation, libraries, student unions, labs and sports facilities
- All educational and social activities
- Activities and/or communication which takes place online
- Arrival and departure. The Vet School reserves the right to investigate instances of student misconduct occurring outside normal class times or after the programme ends
- Any activity not covered by the above points that adversely affects the safety, interests, or reputation of the Vet School and the University of Edinburgh, its students, and staff

Standards of behaviour

All students are required to conduct themselves in a responsible and respectful manner at all times, both in-person and online, towards other students, members of staff, and any members of the general public they encounter. The following list, though not exhaustive, sets out key standards of behaviour we expect from students:

- Students must respect the rights and views of others
- Students must not use offensive, demeaning or stereotyping language
- Students must not engage in offensive, bullying or exclusionary behaviour

- Students must ensure their behaviour does not affect the safety, interests or reputation of the Vet School and the University of Edinburgh, its students and staff
- Students must not browse, download or upload any materials online that could be considered offensive or illegal
- Students must not give out their own, or anyone else's, personal information online (e.g. names, phone numbers, email or postal addresses, passwords, etc)
- Students must follow the instructions of staff at all times
- Students must ensure they are contactable at all times, and respond to communications from staff whether by email, phone call, text message or social media tools, as applicable
- Students must play their part in fostering a friendly and inclusive community during the Veterinary Medicine Diversity Summer School

In addition, students are required to observe and follow the University of Edinburgh's [Code of Student Conduct](#), [Dignity and Respect Policy](#), and [Online Etiquette Guidelines](#).

Setting expectations and ground rules

To avoid misunderstandings, we want to be clear about what students can expect while attending the Veterinary Medicine Diversity Summer School and set ground rules about what students are and are not allowed to do.

Resident Assistant

A Resident Assistant will stay with students in University of Edinburgh accommodation for the entirety of the programme. The Resident Assistant is there to:

- Support students, monitor their wellbeing and respond to any issues or concerns
- Assist with student arrivals and departures
- Monitor student attendance and engagement
- Check-in with students during mealtimes
- Accompany students on social activities, as required
- Enforce curfew and student adherence to this Code of Conduct
- Implement disciplinary measures, as required
- Report all issues and concerns to Vet School staff

The Resident Assistant is not there to:

- Act as personal assistants to students and run errands for them
- Handle and transport luggage for students
- Organise and/or make personal bookings for students
- Coordinate mail and/or parcels for students
- Clean up after students
- Take on the role of the student's guardian

The Resident Assistant must be respected and listened to at all times. They are the first point of contact for any student who is experiencing issues related to their health, safety and/or wellbeing.

University accommodation

We provide standard University of Edinburgh accommodation as part of Veterinary Medicine Diversity Summer School. All students will be located at the same accommodation campus and will be supervised at all times by the on-site Resident Assistant. Students will have their own private bedroom, with shared bathroom facilities.

Communal spaces

Students will have access to communal spaces while staying in University of Edinburgh accommodation. They are responsible for keeping these spaces clean and tidy and must always be respectful of other residents, avoiding excessive noise or disruption.

Meals

Meals are provided for students as part of the Veterinary Medicine Diversity Summer School. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be available Monday to Friday, with dinner on Sunday and breakfast on Saturday. Meals are typically offered as set menu options, and students will have a variety of foods to choose from. Most dietary requirements can be catered for (vegetarian, vegan, gluten free and dairy free). Unfortunately, dedicated kosher and halal options are not available. [Please visit the residential catering website for more details.](#)

We are unable to provide alternative meal arrangements.

Educational and social activities

A variety of educational and social activities will be provided for students as part of the Veterinary Medicine Diversity Summer School. These activities enhance learning and help to build an engaging community experience. All students are expected to attend and fully participate in them.

Planned free time

We recognise that students will want some free time to relax, explore Edinburgh, go shopping, bond with new friends, etc. All students will have planned free time built into their summer school timetable. During planned free time, students can pursue their activities. However, if they are leaving their University accommodation, they must inform the Resident Assistant where they will be, who they will be with, and ensure they are contactable at all times. Students must remain in groups of at least two people during planned free time and must return to their accommodation by 21:00 (9 PM).

Students are not permitted to have unplanned free time, such as avoiding classes or educational and social activities, to 'do their own thing.'

Travelling outside Edinburgh

Students are not permitted to travel outside of Edinburgh during planned free time or otherwise. No exceptions can be made.

Evening downtime

Students must remain at their University accommodation in the evenings unless attending a supervised educational or social activity organised by the Vet School. They can use communal spaces on-site or relax in their bedrooms.

Being in other students' bedrooms

Students are allowed to be in each other's bedrooms until 22:30 (10.30 PM), but only with consent from fellow students. Under no circumstances are students allowed in someone else's bedroom after 22:30 (10.30 PM). The Resident Assistant will conduct daily checks to enforce this.

Curfew

There is a 22:30 (10.30 PM) curfew, by which time all students must return to their own bedrooms. Access to communal areas or being in another student's bedroom after this time is not permitted. The Resident Assistant will conduct daily checks to enforce this.

Alcohol

All students, even those aged 18 and over, are not permitted to obtain, attempt to obtain, possess, distribute, or consume alcohol under any circumstances, whether on University premises or otherwise.

Smoking and vaping

Smoking and vaping are not permitted in any indoor space at any time. It is illegal for anyone under 18 to attempt to obtain tobacco or vaping products, and this is not allowed under any circumstances.

Misconduct

We take misconduct very seriously, and will investigate any incidents where a student breaches this Code of Conduct, whether in-person or online. The following list, whilst not exhaustive, sets out examples of what would be considered misconduct:

- Being absent without leave (this includes leaving Edinburgh without permission, or failing to return to University of Edinburgh accommodation when instructed to do so)
- Failing to respond to communications from staff and/or comply with their instructions
- Engaging in an act that will, or is likely to, disrupt teaching, study, administrative work or any educational or social activity
- Behaving in a way that is likely to endanger someone's safety
- Damaging, defacing, stealing or misappropriating the property of the University of Edinburgh, or of any other person
- Expressing violent, indecent, disorderly, threatening, abusive or offensive behaviour or language (whether expressed orally, in writing or electronically)
- Fraud, deceit, falsification of documents or dishonest behaviour in relation to the Veterinary Medicine Diversity Summer School, its staff or any other person
- Bullying, harassing, victimising or discriminating against any person on the grounds of age, disability, race, ethnic or national origin, religion or beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, colour or socio-economic background
- Failing to comply with University of Edinburgh rules, regulations or policies
- Breaking the conditions of the University of Edinburgh accommodation lease
- Making unwarranted, false, frivolous, malicious or vexatious complaints against staff or any other person
- Obtaining, attempting to obtain, possessing, distributing or consuming alcohol, whether on University of Edinburgh premises or otherwise
- Obtaining, attempting to obtain, possessing, distributing or consuming illegal substances
- Smoking or vaping in indoor spaces, including University of Edinburgh accommodation

Disciplinary action resulting from misconduct

In the event of misconduct, the following process will be followed by staff:

Minor issues

If the issue is minor, and it can be resolved informally and amicably, it will be. The Resident Assistant or lecturers will normally decide if this is the best course of action, and they will consult with Vet School staff as appropriate.

Serious and/or repeated issues

If the issue is serious and/or there are repeated incidents, Vet School staff will immediately be informed and a formal investigation will take place.

Actions we will take

Depending on the nature of the misconduct, any combination of the following actions may be taken in any order:

- The student is given a warning
- The student is required to make good, in whole or in part, the cost of any damage caused to another party
- The student is required to issue an apology to a wronged party
- The student's guardian is notified
- University of Edinburgh security is notified
- The police are notified
- The student is expelled from the Veterinary Medicine Diversity Summer School and their University of Edinburgh accommodation

For the avoidance of doubt, where we have significant concerns about misconduct, we will immediately contact the student's guardian. We reserve the right to remove any student from the Veterinary Medicine Diversity Summer School, at our sole discretion and at any time, if we deem it necessary to ensure the safety and wellbeing of other students and staff.

Reporting issues and concerns

Students who wish to raise any issues or concerns can do so by:

- Speaking with the Resident Assistant in the first instance. They will listen to concerns impartially, and respect the need for sensitivity and discretion. If they deem it necessary, they will consult with Vet School staff
- Speaking to another member of University of Edinburgh staff, such as a lecturer
- Contacting the Veterinary Medicine Diversity Summer School Lead

Depending on the seriousness of the situation, statutory agencies such as the police and/or local authority services may be notified.

Key contacts

The Resident Assistant is the first port of call for any student who has an issue or concern.

We also have appointed members of staff who can be contacted in the event of a serious issue or concern and/or where a student doesn't feel comfortable discussing the matter with the Resident Assistant:

Veterinary Medicine Diversity Summer School Lead: Isabella Hudman

Email: ihudman@ed.ac.uk
Office: The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies
Easter Bush Campus
Midlothian
EH25 9RG

Telephone numbers for the Resident Assistant and Veterinary Medicine Diversity Summer School Lead will be provided at least one week prior to the programme start date.

Photography and video consent

During the Veterinary Medicine Diversity Summer School, the Vet School may capture images in photography and/or video recordings for marketing and promotional communication purposes, including on the University of Edinburgh website, social media channels, and other materials deemed relevant. Images/videos will be held in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Declaration

Student: I have read, understood and agree to abide by this Code of Conduct.	
Student Name (Print)	
Signature of Student	
Date	
Section applicable only to applicants under 18. Parent/Guardian: I have read and discussed this Code of Conduct with the named student above and agree to its terms. I consent to the named student attending the course.	
Parent/Guardian Name (Print)	
Signature of Parent/Guardian	
Date	



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
The Royal (Dick) School
of Veterinary Studies

Photography/Video Consent Form

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies wish to take and use images and other media to use in marketing and promotion of the University of Edinburgh.

This data will be used online and, as such, will be subject to international data transfer which means that it may be accessed or downloaded in a country with less stringent data protection legislation than in the UK. We are therefore seeking your consent to publish your identifying personal data online.

We will retain these images for a period of up to ten years, at which point they will be deleted from our systems, although materials in which they have been used may still exist. At any time you can withdraw your permission, by e-mailing vet.marketing@ed.ac.uk and we will remove your information from our records.

We do not use profiling or automated decision-making processes. A human decision maker will always be involved before any decision is reached in relation to you.

Student Name

Signature

Date

Further information can be found at: www.edin.ac/privacy

Should you have any queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact The University's Data Protection Officer at: dpo@ed.ac.uk