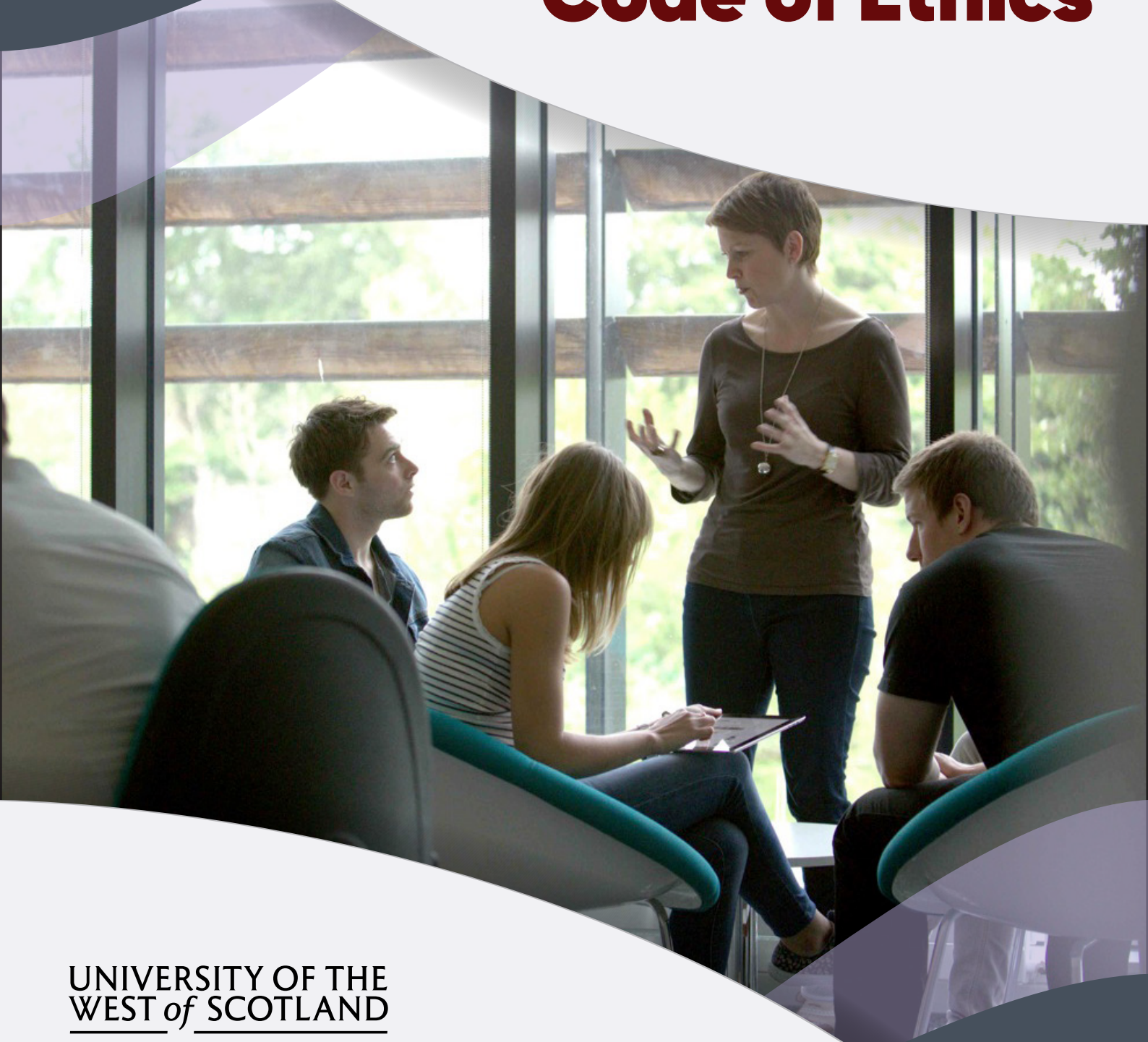


University of the West of Scotland

Code of Ethics



UNIVERSITY OF THE
WEST of SCOTLAND

UWS

UWS Code of Ethics

The Code of Ethics establishes the University's approach to raising the ethical awareness of staff and students, and ensuring that all that we do is underpinned by global and future- focused principles of fairness and opportunity. This document includes references to our [Guidelines for Ethical Practice in Research & Scholarship](#) and University policies that implement our commitment to these principles, and sets out the mechanisms for ethical monitoring and review of all of our activities.



Overall approach

The **University's Strategy 2025** includes a set of principles and truths that guide our activities. We supplement this with a **Social Responsibility Statement** that in turn refers to the **United Nations Global Compact Principles** and the Academic Freedom Statement. In developing the Code, we follow the UK Government's Guidance on **Standards in Public Life**, and provide a framework for our researchers (**UWS Guidelines for Ethical Practice in Research and Scholarship**) based on recognised principles of ethical practice.

These principles are:

- Beneficence (do positive good);
- Non-maleficence (do no harm);
- Autonomy (respect for rights of self- determination);
- Justice; and
- Truthfulness

Implementation of these is in turn based on the principles of independence, competence and openness, and facilitated by the governance structures and procedures outlined in this document.

Deans are responsible for ethical issues in Schools and members of the Vice Chancellor's Executive Group are responsible for ethical issues in professional services. This responsibility includes the management, implementation and communication of ethical principles and guidelines, and ensuring that appropriate training is undertaken. The **University's due diligence** procedure ensures that ethical issues are considered, providing mechanism for escalation through relevant committees and bringing forward any recommended changes to ethical principles and guidelines for consideration by the **University Ethics Committee**.

Students and staff

Every member of the University must endeavour to meet the highest standards of academic rigour and professionalism, including integrity and ethics in research and education, and must conform to national legislation, all relevant national and international codes of practice, and the **policies, procedures and guidelines** of the University.

In education, research, enterprise and consultancy activities, where ethical considerations are likely to arise, staff, and students must seek independent ethical review through a School Ethics Committee. The potential impact on the University's reputation must also be considered.

Results of activities should be presented honestly and accurately and disseminated in a transparent fashion that is open to peer review and wherever possible is made accessible to non-specialists.

Staff and students should be aware of any real or perceived professional conflicts of interest and conflicts of interests must be disclosed. All members of the Senior Management Team are expected to participate in the UWS Register of Interests.



Schools

Deans will ensure the development and implementation of School guidelines for ethical practices and that these are available to all staff and students. They will ensure that ethics matters are covered at academic and student induction and that all have regular opportunities to participate in training and to seek and receive advice about ethical issues. Deans will ensure that ethical considerations are taken into account by programme teams (as part of validation and review activity) and research groups, centres and institutes. The Dean of School appoints the Chair of the School Ethics Committee.

University Committees

The University Ethics Committee Terms of Reference is available in the [UWS Senate Committee Handbook](#). The roles of the University Ethics Committee include the consideration of general ethical issues, development of broad guidelines in respect of specific activities (e.g. research), the overseeing of the University [Guidelines for Ethical Practice in Research and Scholarship](#), oversight of the ethics appeals process and the guidance and monitoring of School Ethics Committee membership and procedures. In this way there will be consistency and coherency of approach to ethics issues across UWS. The University Ethics Committee reports to Senate.

The School Ethics Committee Terms of Reference is available in the [UWS Senate Committee Handbook](#). The School Ethics Committees will formulate local procedures and guidelines for approval by the University Ethics Committee and articulate how these align with the University Code of Ethics and [Guidelines for Ethical Practice in Research and Scholarship](#). Each School Ethics Committee reports to the School Board and to the University Ethics Committee.

Review of the Code

The University Ethics Committee will regularly review this Code.

