UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST of SCOTLAND

UWS

Health and Safety Policy Statement

Reviewed: August 2026



Health and Safety Policy Statement

Aim

This Policy Statement sets out how the University of the West of Scotland will discharge our legal duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act and support the health and safety of all University stakeholders.

This Policy Statement sets out the broad principles by which the University operates and should be read along with the related guidelines, procedures and protocols referred to below.

Scope

This Policy Statement applies to all members of Court; all staff and students, all schools and services, all contractors, consultants and third parties visiting UWS Campuses or working on behalf of the University.

Principles

Health and Safety procedures and protocols are set in the context of, and underpinned by, the Health and Safety at Work Act. Discharging full compliance with the Act is the responsibility of the Court. Compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act is the responsibility of each employee, visitor and third party acting on behalf of UWS on or off UWS campuses. Effective health and safety management is a legal obligation and UWS is responsible for ensuring that compliance is fully integrated into the University's culture, values and performance standards.

Delivery

This will be best achieved through the deployment of a dedicated UWS Health and Safety team and their involvement and engagement with committed and competent staff and students at all levels of the organisation.

Key Objectives

The University is fully committed to ensuring that its Health and Safety arrangements:

- meet all relevant legal requirements and obligations;
- are efficient and effective;
- are open, inclusive and transparent;
- provide for proper accountability; and
- promote integrity and impartiality in the conduct of University business.

As part of our commitment, the University will: -

- be committed to ensuring the safety of all individuals including staff and students while undertaking any organised University activities, and contractors and visitors to UWS Campuses in line with our duty under the Health and Safety at Work Act
- ensure all Campus hazards and associated risks are assessed, mitigated and controlled to prevent injury or ill health.
- embed effective staff and organisational liaison mechanisms including the appointment of Health and Safety Champions within schools and departments. Put measures in place to ensure everyone takes reasonable care of their own health and safety and that of others who might be affected, and as far as it is necessary, co-operates and assists the University to comply with its statutory health and safety obligations.
- Convene a Health and Safety Committee to provide oversight and guidance to staff and students and monitor all aspects of health, safety and environmental performance, including through receiving reports that compare the University's health and safety performance with sector and national standards. The Health & Safety Committee will report to the Resources and People sub-committee of Court.

Responsibilities

The endorsement and upholding of the principles of this Policy Statement are the responsibility of the Principal and Vice Chancellor and the Chair of the University Court.

Approval

This Policy Statement was approved by the University Health and Safety Committee on 18 February 2026.

Monitoring and Review

This Policy Statement will be reviewed annually or as needed due to changes in legislation, standards or sector good practice or where a reorganisation, changes of ownership, responsibility or accountability. All related Guidelines, Procedures and Protocols will be reviewed every three years in line with the University's Annual Compliance Monitoring Statement.

Equality Impact Assessment

A full Equality Impact Assessment was carried out in December 2023.

Related Procedures and Protocols

Access for Children to the University
Asbestos Management Protocol
Authorisation for Unattended Running of Equipment or Apparatus Procedure
Control of Contractors Procedure
Control of Noise at Work Procedure
COSHH Procedure
Dangerous and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations (DSEAR) Procedure
Display Screen Equipment Procedure
Emergency Evacuation of People with Disabilities Procedure
Fieldwork Procedure
Fire risk from Lithium-ion Batteries Procedure
Fire Safety Plan
First Aid Procedure
Health and Safety Management and Inspection Procedure
Lone Working Procedure
Manual Handling Procedure
New and Expectant Mothers Procedure
Personal Protective Equipment Procedure
Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) Procedure
Procedure for Disposal of Hazardous Waste
Provision and Use of Work Equipment Procedure
Provision of Work Experience in UWS Procedure
Risk Assessment Procedure
Smoke Free Protocol
Work Based Learning (Health & Safety) Procedure