UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

HOUSE RULES AND RULES OF CONDUCT ON UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM (UVA) CAMPUSES OR IN UVA BUILDINGS

Adopted by decision no. 2024-123693 of the Executive Board on 23 April 2026, with the approval of the CSR and COR on 16 April 2026 (our reference: 2026ci0292) and 9 April 2026 (our reference: 2026ci0267) respectively, and effective as of 1 May 2026.

Introduction

The UvA is committed to making studying and working at our university as attractive and as easy as possible. That is one of the reasons why we, as an innovative, enthusiastic and independent institution, are working towards a sustainable and prosperous future. The UvA stands for an open and curious attitude and wants to provide students not only with knowledge, but also with the skills to navigate a dynamic world. This requires diversity of perspective, agility, and resilience. There is freedom to ask questions and debate without hindrance, with respect for everyone's input, background, and beliefs, so that everyone feels welcome and safe.

In order to facilitate a high-quality and pleasant study and working environment, and to offer the opportunity for open, free discussions and debates in accordance with academic values, with respect for everyone's fundamental rights, there are house rules that provide students and staff with guidance on acceptable standards of behavior. The house rules and rules of conduct below, as well as the rules for demonstrations and protests included in the appendix, give substance to this.

Scope

These house rules and rules of conduct on the University of Amsterdam's campuses or in its buildings (hereinafter: house rules and rules of conduct) relate to behavior and standards of conduct that affect the proper functioning of, at and in all buildings, facilities, and grounds owned or used by the UvA, as determined annually in the UvA Building Register and Space Usage Regulations. The house rules and rules of conduct also apply to the UvA's digital environments (including the website, Canvas, and email), insofar as applicable. In some cases, these house rules and rules of conduct refer to existing rules and policies. A complete overview of these rules and policies, together with the house rules and rules of conduct, will be posted on the website under the heading *'Overview of internal rules and policies*'.

House rules and rules of conduct

1.1 General

Every person present in the buildings and on the grounds of the UvA is expected to:

- act in accordance with these house rules and rules of conduct and other internal UvA rules (see, among other things, *Overview of internal rules and policies*);
- respects others when exchanging views and engaging in open and free debate, and contributes to a socially and physically safe environment. A socially and physically safe environment is one in which students and staff refrain from any form of undesirable behavior. For an explanation and elaboration of the rules of conduct within the UvA, see the UvA Code of Conduct, under 'Rules of conduct'. The Code of Conduct is included in the *Overview of internal rules and policy;*
- addresses others about undesirable behavior and involves third parties in this regard; see the UvA Code of Conduct for more information;
- refraining from disrupting order, safety, education, patient care, research, valorization, and operations on campus;
- refrains from behavior that could cause physical injury to persons or damage to property;

- refrains from unlawful behavior and offers assistance to the best of their ability or alerts the control room or UvA security if the safety of persons is at risk;
- follow instructions from security and emergency response personnel.

Where relevant, the house rules and rules of conduct also apply when students and staff are engaged in activities under the authority of the UvA elsewhere or at third parties, such as during study trips and excursions.

1.2 Use of buildings and facilities and prohibition of overnight stays

The buildings and the rooms and facilities therein or thereabouts, as well as the grounds intended for staff, students and guests of the UvA community, are intended for teaching and learning, conducting research, valorisation and all related activities. Overnight stays in the buildings, rooms, facilities and grounds, as well as any other improper use, are not permitted. For a more detailed explanation, particularly with regard to the prohibition on overnight stays during demonstrations and protests, please refer to the explanatory notes to this article.

1.3 Identification and access

The main rule is that everyone must be able to identify themselves. However, security will only ask for identification if there is a specific reason to do so. This reason may be to check for unauthorized third parties in the buildings or improper use of the buildings as referred to in 1.2, or for security reasons. The explanatory notes to this article provide further explanation and examples of what may be understood by security reasons.

A valid employee, student, or visitor card is required in the employee and study areas of the buildings. In other areas, a form of identification valid in the Netherlands is also accepted. For the purposes of assessment and examinations, students must be able to show both a student card and a form of identification.

1.4 Distribution of information

The distribution of flyers, posters, and other non-commercial information carriers is permitted in the buildings. Initiators are expected to take sustainability considerations into account (for example, is a physical poster or flyer necessary, or can it also be distributed digitally?). See also *Overview of internal rules and policy* , *Film, photos, and flyers at UvA locations*.

Posters and other informational materials may be displayed on specially designated bulletin boards. Due to limited space, priority will be given to posters and flyers related to education, research, and valorization. For reasons of fire safety and to ensure the orderly conduct of education and research, posters and other informational materials displayed in other locations will be removed.

Information carriers that clearly incite hatred, violence, or are clearly threatening or discriminatory towards staff or students will be removed. The explanatory notes to this article provide further details on the possibilities and conditions for disseminating information within the UvA.

1.5 Reserving events and rooms

The rooms on campus are primarily intended for education, research, and valorization-related activities. The organization of meetings and events related to these purposes will therefore be facilitated in principle.

In addition, events with a theme of inclusivity and diversity are facilitated in principle.
Meetings unrelated to education, research, or valorization that are not facilitated include:

- Meetings of a political party, with the exception of student parties and student organizations;
- Meetings that may compete with UvA educational programs;
- Meetings with a commercial purpose.

When organizing an event or reserving a room, please contact the events coordinator at Facility Services in advance. Facility Services can then seek advice from the Integral Safety department, the Diversity Officer, or other experts. The decision-making authority lies with the mandated representative, as determined in the UvA Standard Business Operations Mandate Regulation and the organizational mandate register.

External parties can only request rooms from the Education Logistics Office via the email address servicedesk-fs@uva.nl. When assessing the request, the interests of the UvA will always take precedence.

The following events require registration via servicedesk-fs@uva.nl:

- Holding a demonstration or protest action, see appendix;
- Holding a public speech, public collection, or fundraiser.

Here too, the decision lies with the authorized representative, who may consult with the relevant internal expert(s).

Prior permission is required for the sale of goods (including food) within the buildings or grounds of the UvA. This permission must be requested in writing from servicedesk-fs@uva.nl.

1.6 Clean and tidy

In order to maintain a pleasant environment, UvA buildings, facilities, rooms, and grounds must be left clean and tidy after use. Means of transport must be parked in the designated areas. Means of transport that remain unused in a rack, compartment, or parking space for a long period of time may be removed.

1.7 Fire safety

For everyone's safety, open flames and heat sources that could cause fire or smoke are not permitted. It is important that escape routes and (emergency) exits are kept clear at all times. Emergency doors, fire alarms and fire extinguishers may only be used in emergency situations. In the event of an evacuation, everyone must leave the building.

Bringing private or non-certified electrical appliances such as kettles, coffee makers, and sandwich makers into UvA buildings is not permitted. Charging bicycle batteries is not permitted inside UvA buildings unless a facility (battery charging station) has been provided for this purpose.

1.8 Pets and means of transport

Pets and the use of means of transport are not permitted inside the buildings. Exceptions to this are trained dogs for persons with disabilities, such as assistance dogs, and means of transport for persons with disabilities.

1.9 Lost and found

Lost property is handed in at reception desks or service points and registered on the iLost website.

1.10 Reporting incidents

Urgent incidents, emergencies, or unsafe situations can be reported by telephone to the UvA control room on the emergency number: +31 (0)20 525 2222. This number is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If the situation is not urgent, you can also report it online or via the UvA control room on +31 (0)20 525 6260.

1.11 Security cameras

Surveillance cameras may be used for security reasons and to protect and monitor buildings. The conditions for the use of the cameras and the reading and storage of the data are laid down in separate regulations. See the *Overview of internal rules and policy* for more information.

Our reference
2024-123693

APPENDIX

Rules for demonstrations/protests on UvA grounds and inside UvA buildings

Introduction

The UvA is an educational institution where fundamental rights are exercised and respected within the limits of national and international law. This also applies to the right to demonstrate. The UvA also has a legal duty and responsibility to ensure that students and staff can adequately pursue their education, conduct research, and undertake valorization activities. Furthermore, the UvA has a responsibility to ensure orderly conduct and the safety of staff, students and visitors on its grounds and in its buildings.

The right to demonstrate and the responsibilities and legal duties of the UvA cannot be viewed separately, especially when it comes to the interests of students and staff. The house rules and rules of conduct included in this appendix bring these interests together and balance them. Within the framework of the rules, the safety and well-being of students and staff, the UvA facilitates demonstrations and protests.

1.1 Conditions under which demonstrations and protests may take place

Demonstrations and protests are permitted. However, certain conditions apply in relation to the safety and well-being of students and staff, the orderly conduct of business and the statutory tasks of education and research.

1. Demonstrators must comply with the provisions and prohibitions of the Criminal Code, such as the explicit prohibition on inciting hatred, violence or discrimination and the prohibition on causing damage to buildings or grounds.
2. The demonstration or protest action must be peaceful. This means that there must be no violent behavior, the demonstration or protest action must not be violent in nature, and the organizers or participants must not reject the foundations of democratic society.
3. Although demonstrations may generally cause some disruption, exams in particular must not be disrupted. Patient care must also not be disrupted in any way. In addition, the basic principle is that teaching and research activities and the work of employees must be able to continue during a demonstration or protest action.
   For a more detailed explanation and examples of activities that must be able to continue, see the explanatory notes to this article.
4. During demonstrations or protests, the safety of everyone at the UvA (including the campus and UvA grounds) must be guaranteed. In order to maintain the safety of everyone at the institution (see also Article 1.8 of the House Rules and Code of Conduct: Fire Safety) and to ensure that the actions proceed peacefully, the following is not permitted during a demonstration or protest action:
   - spend the night on UvA grounds or in UvA buildings;
   - occupying the building (taking temporary possession of it in protest or as part of an action) or blocking it;
   - opening emergency exits without necessity;
   - obstruct or block (emergency) routes and entrances and exits;
   - causing damage to the buildings, grounds, and property of the UvA.

5. During demonstrations or protests, the organizers, if any, must be recognizable to the university representative and available to discuss the course of the demonstration/protest.

1.2 Notification of demonstrations or protests

In the event of demonstrations or protests in a public place, such as a street in the vicinity of a UvA building or grounds, the mayor must be notified in writing at least 24 hours in advance, in accordance with Article 4 of the Public Manifestations Act and its implementation in Articles 2.32 and 2.33 of the Amsterdam General Local Regulation.

Demonstrations or protests in UvA buildings and on UvA grounds must be reported to the university by an employee or student at least 48 hours in advance (via servicedesk-fs@uva.nl) so that safety measures can be put in place and agreements can be made about how the demonstration or protest can take place. When registering, one or more organizers must be specified who will act as contact persons.

The explanatory notes to this article explain the division of powers between the mayor and the Executive Board (CvB).

1.3 Possible courses of action UvA

1. The Executive Board or a representative thereof, such as a faculty dean, will endeavor to accommodate the demonstration or protest action in consultation with (a representative of) the participants, in accordance with the rules set out in this guideline. Any restrictions imposed by the Executive Board will not go beyond what is necessary and will be proportionate.
2. If the Executive Board or a representative thereof has a well-founded suspicion (in advance) that a protest or demonstration may lead to actions that violate these rules, in particular disorder or unsafe situations, this will be explained by or on behalf of the Executive Board as far as possible and consultation will be entered into with the organizers in order to take any (preliminary) measures. Expertise available within the UvA, including the representative advisory bodies and the Diversity Office, may be used for the assessment.
3. If exams and patient care are at risk of being disrupted or if research and education-related activities or the work of employees are at risk of being interrupted due to the demonstration or protest, the university representative may, in consultation with the organizers, designate an alternative location for the demonstration or protest to continue, provided that it is and remains peaceful. The aim is for the alternative location to be as close as possible to the target of the demonstration in terms of sight and sound.
4. In the event of disorder or violation of these rules, a representative of the university may order participants in the demonstration or protest action to leave the building or grounds. This message will be repeated a maximum of three times, in Dutch and in English. In extreme cases, the demonstration or protest action will be prohibited by the representative.
5. In the event of (serious) disturbances as referred to in 2 to 4, the competent authority (the mayor) may be notified by or on behalf of the Executive Board.
6. The Executive Board or someone acting on its behalf will report any (suspected) criminal offenses to the police. In the case of students, a sanction may be imposed on the basis of Article 7.57h of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act.

Our reference
2024-123693

OVERVIEW DOCUMENT INTERNAL ORDER RULES AND POLICY

Subject	Explanation
House rules and demonstrations	The house rules and rules of conduct provide a general framework for the rules that apply in UvA buildings and on UvA grounds, including the conditions for demonstrations and protests.
Desirable and undesirable behavior	The code of conduct sets out how we should behave.
Denial of access to buildings	In the event of a violation of the house rules and rules of conduct, or in the event of nuisance, disturbance or violation of the law, anyone may be denied access to certain university buildings and grounds or the use of facilities, either in whole or in part. See the Regulations on access to university buildings.
Smoke-free	The UvA has smoke-free grounds and buildings.
Alcohol	The UvA has an Alcohol Policy.
Recording and sharing on social media	The UvA must be a safe environment for everyone. That is why we have a clear policy on photographing and distributing images of each other.
Disseminating information	See Filming, photographing and distributing flyers at UvA locations for the principles.
Booking events and rooms	For information about organizing events and reserving rooms, see: https://uvahva-prod.planoncloud.com/case/PRODISMFM/UVAFM067?30
ICT rules of conduct	See 'Rules for responsible use of ICT facilities for staff' and 'Rules for responsible use of ICT facilities for students'.
Register of buildings and building mandates	See: Register of buildings and user mandates - University of Amsterdam
Register of organizational mandates	See: Register of organizational mandates - University of Amsterdam
Conditions for the use of cameras	The use of surveillance cameras and the storage of images are subject to the camera surveillance regulations.

Explanation

Legal basis for house rules, rules of conduct, and responsibility of the UvA

The University of Amsterdam (UvA) has a legal duty to provide education, research, and valorization, see Article 1.3 of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act (hereinafter: WHW).

A safe study, research, and working environment for students, staff, and guests is essential for this. The Executive Board (CvB) has the authority to manage the university, including its buildings (Article 9.2 WHW). More specifically, pursuant to Section 7.57h of the WHW, the VB may draw up regulations (house rules) relating to the proper conduct of business in the buildings and grounds of the institution. These regulations (house rules) serve to guarantee a safe study, research and working environment so that the statutory duties can also be carried out. In addition, as the (private law) owner of the buildings and grounds, the UvA has its own responsibility to ensure order and safety.

The house rules and rules of conduct give substance to the Executive Board's responsibility to ensure a safe study, research, and working environment. By posting the rules, including appendices, on the website, clarity is provided in advance about what is and is not permitted (under certain conditions). Article 7.57h of the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW) not only provides for the possibility of drawing up such rules, but also for the possibility of promoting compliance with them by students if they are not followed.

This article mentions as measures the temporary denial of access to the university's buildings and grounds and the temporary termination of student enrollment, whereby in serious cases of nuisance these measures may be imposed permanently after a warning. Any measure must comply with administrative law principles. For example, a measure must be proportionate, i.e., in the right proportion to the seriousness of the violation. This test will (also) be applied in the concrete application of the rule.

When imposing any measures, administrative law safeguards such as the right to be heard and the possibility of appeal to a court are provided for.

The house rules also apply to employees. Just like students, employees must also be able to trust that the rules are being complied with. The house rules and code of conduct contain an appendix with an overview of separate regulations. These regulations specify in detail what is and is not permitted with regard to the subject in question.

Explanation of the house rules and rules of conduct by article

Article 1.1 General
As a general rule, all staff and students must treat each other with respect. What is meant by desirable and undesirable behavior in this context is further elaborated in the UvA Code of Conduct; see the UvA website and the overview accompanying these regulations. The Code of Conduct also elaborates on the expected behavior of bystanders (staff and students) who encounter undesirable behavior. The Code of Conduct therefore forms an essential part of the house rules.

Article 1.2 Use of buildings and facilities and prohibition of overnight stays
The buildings and grounds of the UvA are intended for education, research, and valorization. The UvA is not a place to stay overnight and cannot guarantee the safety and order of visitors, either in the buildings or on the UvA grounds. The ban on overnight stays in the buildings and on the grounds also applies during demonstrations and protests. Amsterdam is a city with a magnetic effect: demonstrations attract many people from outside the city (who are not UvA employees or students). The UvA cannot take responsibility for this in the context of safety. The ban on overnight stays in buildings remains in full force. In principle, this also applies to the ban on overnight stays on the UvA grounds, but each case will be assessed individually to determine whether it is proportionate to take enforcement action or to request enforcement action.
A proportionality test for overnight stays in buildings is not applicable, as the safety of users in the buildings cannot be guaranteed at night. There are no security guards present, and overnight stays will also involve the closure or blocking of entrances and (emergency) exits.

Article 1.3 Identification
Although identification is mandatory in the Netherlands, identification will not be requested without good reason within the UvA. A request for identification must be based on concrete grounds and not solely on physical characteristics. Examples include suspicion of unauthorized presence or security reasons. Furthermore, identification may only be requested within the buildings of the UvA. Identification will not be requested solely to prevent the legitimate right to demonstrate.

Situations that may fall under the concept of 'security reasons' and therefore may be grounds for requesting identification include intimidation, physical violence, but also suspicious circumstances under which someone is present in a building. This could include, for example, objects that could cause damage to property or people. Due to these different situations, which cannot always be defined in advance, it has been decided not to further define the term 'security reasons'.
For security reasons, it may also be necessary to use surveillance cameras. This is regulated separately; see the *Overview Document on Internal Rules and Policy*.

Article 1.4 Dissemination of information within the buildings
Posters and other information carriers cannot be displayed everywhere for fire safety reasons. The wall notice boards provided for this purpose may be used, but space is limited and, in the event of limited availability, priority will therefore be given to education and research-related purposes.

With regard to content, the fundamental right to freedom of expression is restricted on the basis of the Criminal Code: information material that incites hatred, violence, or discrimination will be removed. The distribution of commercial information is not permitted. Such information is not protected by the Constitution. Commercial information may be competitive for the UvA and does not need to be facilitated by the UvA. In addition, the distribution of such information is at odds with the UvA's function as a public organization with statutory education and research tasks. Furthermore, there could be a risk of confusion as to whether or not the UvA endorses this information. Finally, given the limited space available, there are practical reasons why expressions within and in relation to the university community take precedence in any case.

Article 1.5 Booking events and rooms
An event is defined as follows: an organized activity or gathering at or around the educational institution, whether public or private, with a special, temporary, or incidental character ( ), which deviates (temporarily) from regular educational or research activities.

Events and use of rooms must be requested in advance. As the owner and manager of the buildings with responsibilities under the WHW, the UvA will follow the policy that the spaces are primarily intended for education, research, and valorization.

According to the Space Usage Regulations, the decision on whether or not to allow events and the use of rooms lies with the (main) user of the space. The (main) user is responsible for the users and activities that take place in the space. The register of buildings and user mandates indicates who the (main) user of the space in question is.

The UvA Standard Operational Mandate Regulations, in conjunction with the organizational mandate register, stipulate that the (main) user makes decisions regarding the authorization of events. In the organizational mandate register, which can be found on our UvA website, these functions are linked to individuals per organizational unit. It also lists the sub-mandate holders, such as directors of operations.

The person mandated to decide whether an event can take place will coordinate the decision-making process with the Facility Services department and, where appropriate, seek information from individuals with expertise on the theme of the event. The application for an event and the use of rooms is submitted to Facility Services - Facility Event Coordination. Any risk assessments or safety advice are provided by the Integral Safety department. This department provides both the organizer/applicant and the authorized representative with reasoned and expert advice. The representative makes the final, well-considered and reasoned decision, partly on the basis of the advice, in which all relevant information has been taken into account.

Explanatory notes to the appendix: rules governing demonstrations/protests on UvA grounds and inside UvA buildings

Fundamental rights and duties: the right to education

The UvA is bound by public law standards, including fundamental rights. With regard to the house rules, this mainly concerns the right of assembly and demonstration (the 'right to demonstrate'), as enshrined in Article 9 of the Dutch Constitution and Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), and freedom of expression on the basis of Article 7 of the Dutch Constitution and Article 10 of the ECHR. The UvA wishes to respect and facilitate these rights as much as possible, but must also take into account its own duty of care with regard to the safety and well-being of students, staff, and guests, as well as constitutional and statutory principles. Fundamental rights are not absolute and unlimited.

Restrictions on these fundamental rights must have a legal basis, such as the Criminal Code (incitement to hatred, discrimination, breach of the peace). This legal basis may also derive from the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW) where it concerns safeguarding and protecting education, research, and valorization for the benefit of students and staff. In addition, the management task and position as rights holder of the Executive Board entails that restrictions may be imposed to maintain order and safety in the buildings and on the grounds. The Executive Board exercises this legal authority in accordance with constitutional rules, such as the right to demonstrate.

With regard to restrictions on the right to demonstrate, Article 11 of the ECHR also requires that the restrictions be proportionate (‘necessary in a democratic society’) with a view to protecting a number of listed interests, including the safety of persons, the prevention of disorder, criminal offenses, and the rights of others. The prevention and suppression of disorder and the protection of health are mentioned in the Constitution and elaborated in the Public Manifestations Act (WOM).

The restriction ground 'the prevention or combating of disorder' can be invoked if the (legitimate) right of (other) students to take exams or attend lectures without disruption and the (legitimate) right of employees to perform or facilitate the (statutory) tasks included in the WHW are impeded or disrupted in such a way that intervention is proportionate. As indicated, the Executive Board, as the owner of the grounds and buildings, has a special position in guaranteeing these rights.

The fundamental rights and limitations described above are reflected in the article-by-article explanation of the rules for demonstrations and protests discussed below.

Article-by-article explanation of the rules governing demonstrations/protests

Article 1.1 Conditions under which demonstrations and protests may take place
The UvA respects the right to demonstrate. As indicated, there are also limitations to this right and entitlements that students and staff can derive from these limitations. As the owner of the grounds and buildings, the Executive Board is in a unique position to guarantee these rights and entitlements. This requires effective communication with the organizers. The organizers, if there are any, must therefore be clearly identifiable to the representative of the UvA. The UvA will treat the organizer in the same way as all other demonstrators and will not disadvantage him or her solely because of his or her position as a discussion partner.

Nuisance
Although demonstrations and protests will generally cause some nuisance, students must not be prevented from taking tests and exams. They must also be able to attend classes. Activities in the areas of education, research, and valorization must be able to continue. The same applies to education-related activities, whether or not in the presence of guests, such as anniversary celebrations, lectures, and information days for prospective students. Demonstrations and protests must not prevent these activities from taking place at all. Nor should demonstrations or protests cause such disruption that regular activities are seriously disrupted. Think, for example, of research that has to be temporarily halted, even though this will permanently damage or nullify the research.

Peaceful
The concept of peaceful is based on case law. As noted in the first part of the explanation of Article 1.2, there is a ban on spending the night in the building. In connection with the safety of everyone who uses the UvA buildings, a proportionality test is not relevant in the case of the occupation of UvA buildings, because the occupation of buildings involves closing or blocking entrances and (emergency) exits.

Article 1.2 Notification, public and non-public places
The WOM distinguishes between public and non-public places. The notification of a demonstration in a public place must be submitted to the mayor. The WOM does not apply to places that are not accessible to the public (private places). In these private places, the Executive Board is authorized to maintain order, whereas in public and publicly accessible places, this is (primarily) the responsibility of the mayor.

The notification of a demonstration on UvA grounds or in UvA buildings is intended to enable the demonstration to proceed safely and not as an obstacle to prevent the demonstration. The desire to register a demonstration does not mean that failure to do so will result in sanctions against students or staff. The 48-hour period is necessary in order to arrange and guarantee security.

Article 1.3 Possible courses of action by the UvA
Proportionality test
The explanatory notes above discussed the requirement that restrictions on the right to demonstrate must be proportional. This is achieved through the courses of action mentioned in the step-by-step plan in Article 1.3 and the (less harmful) options for action mentioned therein. This proportionality test relates to the rules in a general sense (testing in abstracto). However, not every situation can be covered by rules in advance. In a specific situation, there will always be room to weigh up the interests involved, depending on the circumstances of the case. For reasons of proportionality, it may be decided not to enforce a rule, or not to enforce it in full (concrete assessment).

The prevailing regulations and case law in the field of the right to demonstrate will be decisive in determining whether the Executive Board will act in specific situations during demonstrations or protests. In such cases, the house rules may be subordinate to the right to demonstrate.