



Freedom of Speech & Guest Speaker Policy

BPP University Clubs & Societies — 2025/26

BPP Students' Association is committed to supporting freedom of speech and expression within the law. We believe that open discussion, debate and the exchange of ideas are an important part of student life and a positive learning environment.

We welcome a wide range of views, including those that may be controversial or unpopular. The Students' Association does not endorse every opinion expressed at its events, activities or through its platforms. Hosting a speaker or event does not imply agreement with the views being presented.

Freedom of speech also includes the right to question, challenge and peacefully disagree with the views of others. We encourage respectful discussion and constructive debate between individuals with differing perspectives.

Freedom of speech does not extend to unlawful conduct. The Students' Association will not support speech or behaviour that is unlawful, including harassment, discrimination, incitement to violence, hatred, terrorism, or other criminal activity.

We may take reasonable and proportionate steps to ensure events can take place safely and lawfully, including implementing appropriate event management and safeguarding measures where required.

Anyone organising an event involving an external speaker must follow the Students' Association guest speaker process and obtain any necessary approvals before advertising or hosting the event.

The Students' Association is committed to creating an environment where students can express their views freely, listen to others, and engage in lawful, respectful debate.

Steps to Take:

1. You must notify engage@bpp.com of any guest speaker you intend to engage, at least 5 working weeks (25 working days) in advance of your event.
2. If you have not received approval for your event, or have not provided sufficient notice, then there is the likelihood that it will be either postponed or cancelled altogether.

3. Please do not confirm or advertise your event until written authorisation has been granted.

Review

The Students' Association and BPP University will carry out a proportionate review of the proposed speaker.

You will be notified in writing of the outcome. **Do not confirm** arrangements with the speaker until you have received written approval.

Approval and Conditions

Approval may be granted unconditionally, granted with conditions (e.g. a moderator must be present, questions must be pre-submitted), or declined.

Responsibilities

- The society President is responsible for ensuring this process is followed for every external speaker
- The society must not agree any speaker arrangements before receiving written approval
- The society is responsible for briefing the speaker on the conditions of their invitation
- If a speaker acts in contravention of this policy at the event, the President or their delegate may ask the speaker to stop. Contact your Clubs and Societies Officer immediately in this situation

Legal note

Under the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023, BPP University has a statutory duty to protect freedom of speech within the law. More information can be found here - [Link Here](#).