



Freedom of Speech and Expression Policy

The Independent Students' Association supports our students need to express their freedom of thought and their freedom of expression. Preventing this liberty of free speech because their view or opinion may not be acceptable by some groups or even the majority is unacceptable, and our students have the right to be protected from criticism and oppression. As an integral part of this institution of higher learning, this basic freedom is a foundation of our Independent status and one which we exercise for the benefit of all our student body. There may be occasions when this principle goes beyond the expression of freedom of thought and may constitute provocation to violence, race hate, incitement of terrorism, sexual harassment, harassment based on protected characteristics or criminal activities. The Students' Association and the University intends to safeguard against incitement of this kind and will always strive to protect our students and community from any form of offensive or extremist behaviour. The University reserves its right to initiate disciplinary procedures against our own students or to refer external persons to the due process of law if they behave in a manner as described above.

Guest Speaker Policy

Although we do not intend to take away the legitimate right of freedom of speech and expression, there will be claims by some that their opinions and beliefs justify abusive, humiliating, intimidating, aggressive, physical and verbal violence and in this respect, the Students' Association must ensure that our students are safeguarded from any such persons using our facilities as a platform for their views. Taking into consideration our legal and University conduct obligations, we have implemented a guest speaker process for societies or other Association groups to follow. This process must be followed if you intend to bring in an external speaker onto our premises or if you are using the Association as a platform to bring in speakers at venues which are off University premises also.

To ensure that you have the support of the Students' Association and the University for any speaker events, please follow the below steps.

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.