

# Campus Access Policy 2024







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#### About this document

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## Part 1 Purpose and application

### 1.1 Purpose

- (1) This Policy:
  - (a) helps to maintain a vibrant environment on University lands, which:
    - (i) is welcoming to our community and the general public; and
    - (ii) respects academic freedom and freedom of speech;
  - (b) sets out our expectations for users of University lands;
  - (c) states our requirements for protecting:
    - (i) the safety of users;
    - (ii) the integrity of buildings, fixtures and grounds; and
    - (iii) continuity of University operations;
  - (d) specifies activities that:
    - (i) require prior bookings or approval; or
    - (ii) are unacceptable at any time;
  - (e) provides for the safe and orderly conduct of demonstrations.

### 1.2 Start date

- (1) This Policy commences on 28 June 2024.

### 1.3 Application

- (1) This Policy applies to any user of University lands: that is, anyone who enters or remains upon our lands.
  - (a) This includes staff, affiliates, students, contractors and visitors.

**Note:** See definitions in Part 4.



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## Part 2 Requirements

### 2.1 Principles

- (1) University lands are private property, and the University has the right and obligation to regulate access to them, and their use.
  - (a) We welcome members of the public to use our lands, consistently with this Policy.
  - (b) In appropriate circumstances, we may require users to leave, or to remove their property from, our lands.
- (2) We are committed to respect for people, privacy, and property.
  - (a) This includes:
    - (i) making our lands safe places for all users; and
    - (ii) preventing significant damage to buildings, fixtures or grounds.
- (3) Our staff and students have rights of freedom of speech and academic freedom.
  - (a) This includes freedom to disagree and to demonstrate, within the limits set out in this Policy and the [Charter](#).
- (4) We will not unreasonably restrict rights of freedom of speech and academic freedom, but we may regulate the manner in which they are exercised.
  - (a) As required by law, and as permitted by the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#), we will do so in the interests of:
    - (i) protecting users' safety;
    - (ii) effectively pursuing our statutory object; and
    - (iii) preserving our property.

**Note:** See s 6, [University of Sydney Act 1989 \(NSW\)](#); Art. 19, [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#)
- (5) Access to buildings, roads and grounds must always be safe and not unreasonably obstructed.
- (6) People and vehicles must always be able to move around University lands safely, without unreasonable obstruction.

**Note:** Obstructing the movement of people or vehicles may be an offence. See the [Summary Offences Act 1998](#).
- (7) University operations and activities must not be subjected to significant disruption.
  - (a) This includes teaching, research, events, and administrative activities.
- (8) Users must comply with all applicable University rules, policies, and procedures.
  - (a) Some important policies are listed as [related documents](#) at the end of this Policy.



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(b) All University rules, policies and procedures are available from the [Policy Register](#).

(9) This Policy does not limit the right of staff to engage in lawful protected industrial action.

## 2.2 Demonstrations

(1) Demonstrations by staff and students are a legitimate exercise of freedom of speech.

(a) They are permitted on University lands provided that they comply with this Policy, the [Charter](#), and applicable laws and regulations.

(2) Only staff and students are permitted to organise demonstrations on our lands.

(a) Other users may participate, consistently with this Policy.

(3) Approval is not required, but organisers must notify us of a planned demonstration as soon as possible, and no later than when it is first communicated to people other than the organisers.

(a) This notice must be given to Central Operations Services using [the online notification form](#).

**Note:** Further information about the form and notifications is available from the [Planning a demonstration on campus information page](#).

(4) Demonstrations must be held in open spaces.

(a) They must not be held inside any building.

(5) Demonstrations must be orderly and peaceful.

(a) They must not:

(i) interfere with users' safety;

(ii) damage property;

(iii) block access or mobility for users with disabilities;

(iv) unreasonably disrupt the University's operations, including examinations; or

(v) unreasonably impede the access or movement of people or vehicles.

(6) Demonstrators may use megaphones or similar amplifiers to address large groups and to manage crowds and processions.

(a) They must not be used:

(i) inside any building;

(ii) to target or harass any person or group; or

(iii) so close to a person or group as to present a safety risk, such as a risk to their hearing.

**Note:** See [Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination Prevention Policy](#), [Work Health and Safety Policy](#).



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- (7) Protective Services staff are responsible for monitoring and managing demonstrations.
  - (a) People taking part in demonstrations must comply with any reasonable directions Protective Services give.
- (8) Users must allow demonstrators to demonstrate without fear of retaliation or retribution.
  - (a) Other users are not permitted to:
    - (i) attempt to prevent demonstrators from expressing views they disagree with; or
    - (ii) attempt to control or manage any demonstration activity.

## 2.3 Activities that require bookings or permissions

- (1) Users may only erect temporary structures in bookable spaces, consistently with an approved booking managed by University Venues.
  - (a) Approval will not be unreasonably withheld but may be conditional.
  - (b) Not complying with conditions will be a breach of this Policy.
  - (c) Users must make their bookings using the [Service Portal](#).
- (2) Users may display banners and other promotional materials consistently with the requirements of the [Promotional and Display Materials Policy](#).

## 2.4 Unacceptable activities

- (1) The following activities are not permitted on University lands:
  - (a) demonstrations without informing us as required by clause 2.2;
  - (b) activities listed in clause 2.3 which have not been approved, or for which there is no booking;
  - (c) camping;
  - (d) projecting words or images onto buildings or other structures;
  - (e) open fires;
  - (f) except as permitted by law, possessing any weapon or explosive, including fireworks or flares;  
**Note:** See [Weapons Prohibition Act 1988 \(NSW\)](#) and [Firearms Act 1996 \(NSW\)](#).
  - (g) intimidating or harassing behaviour, such as continuing to engage with a user after they make clear that the contact is unwanted.
  - (h) dumping rubbish or other materials;
  - (i) storing personal property on our lands without permission;
  - (j) any activity that presents an unacceptable health or safety risk.



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## 2.5 Personal property

- (1) Users may leave personal property in designated storage areas, indoor shared spaces or offices.
- (2) Users must not otherwise leave personal property unattended on our lands.
- (3) Personal property left unattended will be regarded as lost property and will be removed by Protective Services staff.
- (4) Owners may inquire about reclaiming lost property by contacting Protective Services.

**Note:** Information about the lost and found property process is available on the [University website](#).

## 2.6 Companion animals

- (1) Registered assistance animals are always permitted on University lands.
- (2) Users may bring companion animals onto our lands if they are always under effective control.
- (3) Dogs must be on a leash, except in specifically signposted off-leash areas.
- (4) Other companion animals must always be on a leash or in a suitable carrier.

## 2.7 Policy breaches

- (1) University lands are:
  - (a) inclosed lands, for the purposes of the [\*Inclosed Lands Protection Act 1901 \(NSW\)\*](#); and
  - (b) public places, for the purposes of the [\*Summary Offences Act 1988 \(NSW\)\*](#).
- (2) Breaches of this Policy may constitute offences under either or both of these statutes.
- (3) The Protective Services unit has primary responsibility for the security of our lands.
  - (a) They are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and should be contacted about any incidents or concerns.
    - (i) Emergency contact: 9351 3333
    - (ii) General contact: 9351 3487
- (4) Protective Services staff may do any of the following if they believe it is reasonably necessary in the interests of safety or to manage an actual or perceived risk:
  - (a) approach any user;
  - (b) require any user to provide either:
    - (i) a staff or student identification; or
    - (ii) other photographic identification which states their name and address;
  - (c) direct any user to leave specified University lands;



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- (d) remove apparently lost property;
  - (e) remove personal property that presents a safety risk.
- (5) If a user does not comply with this Policy, Protective Services staff may:
  - (a) revoke their permission to be on our lands; and
  - (b) direct them to leave and not to return.
- (6) A revocation of permission and direction to leave may be given orally but should be followed by a written notice if practicable.
  - (a) Written notice is not required where the person has refused to provide identification.
  - (b) The notice must state:
    - (i) the basis for the revocation of permission; and
    - (ii) the duration.
- (7) A person whose permission to be on University lands has been revoked under this policy may apply to the Vice-President (Operations) for a review of that decision.
  - (a) An application for review must be made in writing to [vp.operations@sydney.edu.au](mailto:vp.operations@sydney.edu.au).
  - (b) The Vice-President (Operations) may vary or amend the decision as they see fit.
- (8) Protective Services staff may seek assistance from NSW Police if a user:
  - (a) refuses to leave when directed;
  - (b) re-enters University lands after being directed to leave or having their permission revoked; or
  - (c) commits any offence on our lands.
    - (i) If necessary Protective Services staff may detain the person consistently with powers provided under the [\*Inclosed Lands Protection Act\*](#) and the [\*Law Enforcement \(Powers and Responsibilities\) Act\*](#).

**Note:** See s.6 [\*Inclosed Lands Protection Act 1901\(NSW\)\*](#) and s.100 [\*Law Enforcement \(Powers and Responsibilities\) Act 2002 \(NSW\)\*](#).
- (9) The University may seek assistance from NSW Police where Protective Services staff may not be able to manage a potential incident.
  - (a) In seeking assistance, we will convey to the Police our:
    - (i) commitment to freedom of speech; and
    - (ii) intolerance of vilification and hate speech.





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## Part 3 Roles and responsibilities

### 3.1 Vice-President (Operations)

- (1) receives and decides applications for review of decisions to revoke users' permission to be on University lands under this policy.

### 3.2 Protective Services staff

- (1) implement reasonable and proportionate security measures for University lands;
- (2) assess risks of proposed demonstrations and implement appropriate responses to:
  - (a) protect safety; and
  - (b) prevent theft, damage, or misuse of property;
- (3) issue directions to users consistently with this Policy; and
- (4) revoke users' permission to be on University lands in appropriate circumstances.

### 3.3 University Venues team

- (1) manages bookable spaces;
- (2) receives, and if appropriate approves, applications for activities that require bookings or permissions.

### 3.4 Staff, affiliates, and students

- (1) provide University identification to Protective Services staff on request;
- (2) follow directions given by Protective Services staff;
- (3) familiarise themselves with, and comply with, University rules, policies, and procedures.

### 3.5 Users

- (1) comply with this Policy;
- (2) provide identification to Protective Services staff on request; and
- (3) follow directions given by Protective Services staff.



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## Part 4 Definitions

(1) In this Policy a reference to 'we', 'our' or 'us' means the University.

### **bookable space**

any space which can be booked for a non-teaching activity through the [Service Portal](#)

### **camping**

includes:

- using any part of a building as a temporary dwelling;
- setting up or parking any structure or vehicle as a temporary dwelling. This includes tents, caravans and campervans.
- setting up beds, or using blankets, swags or sleeping bags, as a temporary dwelling;
- setting up other furniture without approval.

Camping does not include:

- using designated accommodation areas; or
- attending approved overnight events.

### **Charter**

the [Charter of Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech](#).

### **demonstration**

any protest activity on University lands. This includes:

- marches;
- rallies;
- sit-ins or sit-downs;
- teach-ins;
- any other form of public assembly.



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### **promotional or display materials**

as set out in the [Promotional and Display Materials Policy 2025](#):

any physical materials with content intended for display or promotional purposes. This includes:

- banners, notices or posters
- A-frames or other portable display boards
- electronic display boards, televisions or other visual display units
- stickers, decals or graffiti.

The content of promotional or display material may include information about:

- any good, service, group, event, activity, ideology or cause;
- commercial activities, including offers of free goods or services; and
- non-commercial activities such as events or meetings

This term does not include:

- electronic communications such as emails or electronic messages;
- classroom materials;
- directional signage for events or classes;
- clothing.

### **protected industrial action**

protected industrial action which is permitted under the [Fair Work Act 2009 \(Cth\)](#).

### **Service Portal**

the University's online tool for making Service Requests.

### **temporary structure**

includes:

- booths;
- stalls;
- portable toilets;
- temporary enclosures;
- mobile structures;
- electronic signage
- cooking equipment or heaters not provided by the University.

### **University community**

staff, affiliates and students of the University.



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**University lands (also  
referred to as “our lands”)**

includes any land or road occupied or used by, or in connection with, the University. This includes:

- all or part of any building or structure; and
- any land used or occupied in connection with a building or structure

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**user**

any person who enters, or remains upon, University lands.

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## Part 5 Notes

### Recissions and replacements

This document replaces the following, which are rescinded as from the date of commencement of this document:

- (1) *University of Sydney (Campus Access) Rule 2009*, which commenced on 5 May 2009.

### Campus Access Policy 2024

Date approved 27 June 2024

Date commenced 28 June 2024

Date for review June 2027

Approver Vice-Chancellor and President

Owner Vice-President (Operations)

Date last amended 2 June 2025

Related documents [\*Heritage Act 1977 \(NSW\)\*](#)  
[\*Inclosed Lands Protection Act 1901 \(NSW\)\*](#)  
[\*Summary Offences Act 1988 \(NSW\)\*](#)  
[\*Work Health and Safety Act 2011 \(NSW\)\*](#)  
[\*University of Sydney \(Student Discipline\) Rule\*](#)  
[\*Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination Prevention Policy\*](#)  
[\*Charter of Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom\*](#)  
[\*Promotional and Display Materials Policy\*](#)  
[\*Smoke Free Environment Policy\*](#)  
[\*Staff and Affiliates Code of Conduct\*](#)  
[\*Student Charter\*](#)  
[\*Work Health and Safety Policy\*](#)

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## Part 6 Amendment history

Register Version	Approved by	Clause	Amendment	Commenced
PDOC2011/143[v3]	Vice-Chancellor and President	9(3)(a)	“outdoors” deleted from end of clause	1 July 2024
PDOC2011/143[v3]	Vice-Chancellor and President	10(2)(c)	Subclause deleted. Consequent renumbering	1 July 2024
PDOC2011/143[v4]	Vice-Chancellor and President	Whole policy	Policy put into new template; language simplified	26 February 2025
PDOC2011/143[v4]	Vice-Chancellor and President	2.1(1)	Compare to clause 7 of previous version. New subclauses (a) and (c) added	26 February 2025
PDOC2011/143[v4]	Vice-Chancellor and President	2.1(3)(a)	Compare to clause 7 of previous version. “protest” changed to “demonstrate”	26 February 2025
PDOC2011/143[v4]	Vice-Chancellor and President	2.1(4)	Compare to clause 7 of previous version. New subclause added	26 February 2025
PDOC2011/143[v4]	Vice-Chancellor and President	2.2 (2)	Compare to clause 8 of previous version “protest” changed to “demonstrate”	26 February 2025



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PDOC2011/143[v4]	Vice-Chancellor and President	2.2(3)	Compare to clause 8 of previous version. 72-hour notice requirement replaced by notice no later than when first communicated to people other than organisers. New contact details for giving notice.	26 February 2025
PDOC2011/143[v4]	Vice-Chancellor and President	2.2(5)(a)(iii)	Compare to clause 8 of previous version. New subclause added	26 February 2025
PDOC2011/143[v4]	Vice-Chancellor and President	2.2(5)(a)(iv)	Compare to clause 8 of previous version. Reference to examinations added	26 February 2025
PDOC2011/143[v4]	Vice Chancellor and President	2.2 (6)	Compare to clauses 8 and 9 of previous version. New subclause added	26 February 2025
PDOC2011/143[v4]	Vice-Chancellor and President	2.2(7)	Compare to clause 8 of previous version. New subclause added.	26 February 2025
PDOC2011/143[v4]	Vice-Chancellor and President	2.3	Compare to clause 9 of previous version. Reference to “prior approval” changed to “bookings or permissions”. New subclause (1) added.	26 February 2025



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PDOC2011/143[v4]	Vice-Chancellor and President	2.4 (1)	Compare to clause 10 of previous version. References to notice amended. References to bookings added. New subclause (d) added. Exception for weapons permitted by law added.	26 February 2025
PDOC2011/143[v4]	Vice-Chancellor and President	2.7 (1) and (2)	Compare to clause 13 of previous version. New subclauses added	26 February 2025
PDOC2011/143[v4]	Vice-Chancellor and President	2.7 (3)	Compare to clause 13 of previous version. Administrative correction to contact telephone number	26 February 2025
PDOC2011/143[v4]	Vice-Chancellor and President	2.7(4)(ii)	Compare to clause 13 of previous version. Reference to name and address changed to photographic identification.	26 February 2025
PDOC2011/143[v4]	Vice-Chancellor and President	2.7(5)(b)	Compare to clause 13 of previous version. “and not to return” added.	26 February 2025
PDOC2011/143[v4]	Vice-Chancellor and President	2.7(6)(b)(ii)	Compare to clause 13 of previous version New subclause added.	26 February 2025
PDOC2011/143[v4]	Vice-Chancellor and President	2.7 (7)	Compare to clause 13 of previous version New subclause added.	26 February 2025





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PDOC2011/143[v4]	Vice-Chancellor and President	2.7(8)(c)(i)	Compare to clause 13 of previous version. New subclause added.	26 February 2025
PDOC2011/143[v4]	Vice-Chancellor and President	3.1	Compare to clause 14 of previous version. New clause added.	26 February 2025
PDOC2011/143[v4]	Vice-Chancellor and President	3.3	Compare to clause 14 of previous version New clause added.	26 February 2025
PDOC2011/143[v4]	Vice-Chancellor and President	3.5(2)	Compare to clause 14 of previous version. New subclause added.	26 February 2025
PDOC2011/143[v4]	Vice-Chancellor and President	Part 4 Definitions	Compare to clause 6 of previous version. Definitions added: -bookable space -promotional or display materials -Resource Booker -temporary structure -University community  Definitions amended: -demonstration - University lands	26 February 2025
PDOC2011/143[v5]	Vice Chancellor and President	1.3(1)(a) - Note	Administrative amendment: replaced "Part 5" with "Part 4"	28 February 2025



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Register Version	Approved by	Clause	Amendment	Commenced
PDOC2011/143[v6]	Vice Chancellor and President	2.3(1)(c)	Administrative amendment: replaced “Resource Booker” with “Service Portal”; updated hyperlink	2 June 2025
PDOC2011/143[v6]	Vice Chancellor and President	2.7(7); 2.7(7)(b)	Administrative amendment: replaced “Vice-Principal (Operations)” with “Vice-President (Operations)”	2 June 2025
PDOC2011/143[v6]	Vice Chancellor and President	Part 4: Definitions	Administrative amendment: amended definition for “bookable space”; deleted definition for “Resource Booker”; added definition for “Service Portal”.	2 June 2025