

FACEBOOK AND OTHER SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

Social networking sites have many valuable uses when you are at university. They can enable you to stay in touch with friends and family as well as enabling you to link up with other like minded people with similar interests. If you use sites such as Facebook it is important to remember that anything you post (however innocently intended) on your own blog, web page, on Facebook or similar sites, may be seen as potentially defamatory or libellous; you are responsible for what you say.

Facebook (for example) has its own conditions of use which include:

- Not bullying, intimidating or harassing any other user
- Not posting content that is hateful, threatening, pornographic or violent
- Not using Facebook to do anything unlawful, misleading, malicious or discriminatory

You also need to remember that you remain subject to the University's regulations covering acceptable standards of behaviour, whether on or off campus. Use of the University's IT facilities is also governed by conditions that set out what is acceptable and what is not; these are similar to the conditions attached to the use of Facebook. The academic regulations are on Portia together with the regulations for use of IT facilities.

In the event of a serious breach of these regulations, on Facebook or elsewhere, the University may take action which could lead amongst other things to withdrawal of your IT access, and to a fine or suspension (or even in the most extreme case to expulsion) under the University's Code of Discipline for Students.

Please think carefully before posting comments about others, particularly in terms of the impact your comments will have on individuals. Chichester prides itself on being a small , friendly university, so please help it to continue to live up to this reputation. If there is an issue that you need to raise, there are many ways in which you can do this, so that we can work with you to try to resolve the issue. These include talking directly to staff in class or tutorials, talking to the course student representatives, talking to the Programme Co-ordinator, talking to Student Services, providing feedback through internal questionnaires and surveys, contacting the Students' Union and if necessary, making a complaint..