

# Creating an open and inclusive academic community

Leiden University

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Universiteit  
Leiden

Bij ons leer je de wereld kennen

# Academic freedom and freedom of expression

- [Academic freedom](#) is about the freedom to pose questions, conduct research and teach on topics of choice without interference.
- The very goal of academia is to be critical, curious, open and engage with and learn from other perspectives, not simply defend yours and exclude other perspectives.
- The university is a professional setting. Academic research and discussions are guided by the principles of [academic integrity](#): Arguments should be reasonable, logical and clear and supported by verifiable sources and facts.
- Academic freedom also has its limits: gossip, bullying, hate speech, discrimination and (sexually) inappropriate behaviour are not acceptable, either online or offline.

More information on our code of conduct and practical tips see our [toolkit dignity and respect](#).

# Giving space

- Pose questions and engage openly with perspectives different from your own. Assume good faith and postpone judgement.
- Treating each other with respect means treating each other as equals.
- Let people speak for themselves and respect their feelings and experiences. Choose language and questions which give others the space to define who they are.
- Respect each other's privacy. Only share other people's personal information or photos with their permission.
- Take responsibility for your own words, and apologize when you did cross a line, intentionally or unintentionally.

# Events, politics and protests

- We encourage students and staff to organize events and activities which may differ in perspective but maintain our standards of academic integrity and code of conduct.
- As an institution, we also acknowledge the right to protest in public spaces. At the same time, ensuring a safe environment for all, always remains of high priority. There is a time, place and manner to protest that maintains a space for open dialogue and engagement.
- Make sure to consult the regulations, which are there to ensure protests can take place peacefully and in accordance with our shared values: notify the university, appoint a contact person, and discuss how to ensure a peaceful protest.
- Consult our [house rules](#) and procedures regarding the organisation of events
- Read our [one-pager](#) on rules regarding protests.

# Where to go

- **Study adviser, Program Director or Director of Studies:** any concerns about your study and issues in your learning environment
- **Confidential counsellor and ombudsperson for students:** independent advice on unacceptable behavior or discrimination
- **Advisory team for concerning or threatening behavior:** threatening or concerning behavior by a fellow student directed at you or others.
- **Diversity and Inclusion Expertise Office and D&I networks:** any questions about diversity, equity and inclusion.
- For contact details and further information, see [here](#).