

# Standard for Visiting Speakers

UNSW has adopted the [Model Code for the Protection of Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom in Australian Higher Education Providers](#) (the Model Code).

Consistent with Principle 6 of the Model Code, this Standard sets out the process to be followed to determine if UNSW will permit visiting speakers to speak on the University's premises and grounds or virtually at a University event.

As acknowledged in the Model Code, UNSW will balance the right to academic freedom and freedom of speech with institutional autonomy to refuse or permit invited visiting speakers or external visiting speakers from operating at, for or on behalf of UNSW.

Visiting speakers must be managed in accordance with the Model Code to maintain:

- content that is lawful
- the health, wellbeing and safety of students and staff
- scholarly standards and
- UNSW's character as an institution of higher learning.

## 1. Responsibilities

- 1.1. The Vice-Chancellor and President holds the authority to make decisions regarding permission or refusal of visiting speakers and their physical or virtual presence and communication at, for or on behalf of UNSW.
  - 1.1.1. If the speaker is considered to maintain the principles of the Model Code, they may be permitted.
  - 1.1.2. If the speaker presents a risk to the maintenance of principles of the Model Code they must be refused.
- 1.2. The Vice-Chancellor and President delegates authority to evaluate and manage risks associated with invited and external visiting speakers as follows:
  - 1.2.1. When identified, high risks associated with visiting speakers must be promptly escalated to the Chief of Staff for consideration by the Vice-Chancellor and President's office.
  - 1.2.2. When identified, low and medium risks associated with visiting speakers will be managed by the relevant Head of School, Pro Vice-Chancellor or Deputy Vice-Chancellor.
  - 1.2.3. If in doubt as to the risk rating, the issue should be promptly escalated to the Chief of Staff.
- 1.3. Students with concerns regarding visiting speakers may contact the relevant Head of School.

## 2. Evaluating and managing risks

- 2.1. Employees evaluating and managing risks associated with visiting speakers must refer to the Model Code for guidance and may refer to the Risk and opportunity matrix in the [Risk Management Manual](#) as a related policy document.

## 3. Immediate wellbeing and safety concerns

- 3.1. In the case of immediate emergency situations that may impact the health, wellbeing or safety of people at UNSW, please select from the following options:
  - 3.1.1. For all concerns posing immediate risk to life call 000.
  - 3.1.2. Contact the [University's Security Services](#) via the SafeZone App or on 02 9385 6666 in relation to safety concerns on UNSW campuses (unless on Canberra campus).
  - 3.1.3. Select from the [Emergency Information](#) in relation to Canberra Campus: Australian Federal Police (AFP) - 131 237; Emergency Services: Police, Ambulance, Fire Brigade – 000; Wilsons Security - 0466 856 355; ADFA Duty Officer (main contact for afterhours assistance) - 0418 413 035.
  - 3.1.4. Contact Global 24 on + 61 2 9312 5153 or via [assistance@global24.com.au](mailto:assistance@global24.com.au) if you are overseas and have safety concerns.

Effective: 20 June 2024

Responsible: Vice-Chancellor and President

Lead: Chief of Staff