

University of Plymouth External Speakers Policy and Procedure

This document outlines:

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1. Our approach and philosophy

1.1. As part of our mission, we are committed to academic freedom of speech and have a long history as an academic institution which has regularly welcomed visiting speakers from around the world, bringing great diversity of experience, insight and opinion, enriching our events and activities and speaking discussion and debate amongst students, staff and visitors alike.

1.2. The University regularly invites a wide range of speakers throughout the year we run successful programmes of events both within academic departments and professional services areas.

1.3. This policy serves as a governing framework for the engagement of external speakers to ensure that this tradition, where debate, challenge and dissent are not only permitted but expected, can be preserved and balanced with the University's ability to meet its legal responsibilities.

1.4. The policy covers all events hosted by/affilino 98 0 T.14 -1.83 Td2 (i)6 (gd ()Tj 0.004 Tc 0

5.4. Data collated through this procedure is reported to the Office for Students, annually, as part of the Accountability and Data Return.

5.5. The aim of this procedure is to facilitate the risk assessment of speakers and where risks are highlighted, to ensure mitigation is put into place. Most speakers are uncontroversial and provide little or no risk, yet some express contentious, inflammatory or offensive views, and there are measures that can be put into place to manage this, whilst allowing debate to take place.

5.6. The process for notification is included in Appendix 2.

6. Risk assessment

6.1. In all cases, the notification procedure in Section 5 must be used.

6.2. Speakers will be classed as low risk (therefore requiring no intervention) if all of the following criteria are met:

6.2.1. The event will not be open to the general public

6.2.2. The speaker will be primarily speaking in English

6.2.3. The event will not be broadcast, streamed or offered for download by the organisers (this does not apply to external speakers 'events' that are part of an approved programme)

If any of the above criteria are not met, the event/speaker is classed as 'medium risk' and the Prevent Lead will support the organiser to put mitigations in place such as:

- Support from the Events or Security teams
- Advice from External Relations regarding reputational risks
- Where the primary language is a language other than English, the organiser should ensure that a University representative who is fluent in the language being spoken is present during the event
- Where the event is to be broadcast, streamed or downloadable, advice should be sought from External Relations to ensure any reputational risks and those associated with intellectual property are taken into consideration
- Referral to the Deputy Vice Chancellor if any risks cannot be resolved

6.2.4. The proposed title or theme of the event does not present a potential risk that views/opinions expressed by speakers may be in breach of this policy

6.2.5. The speaker has not previously been prevented from speaking at the University of Plymouth or, to our knowledge, other similar establishment

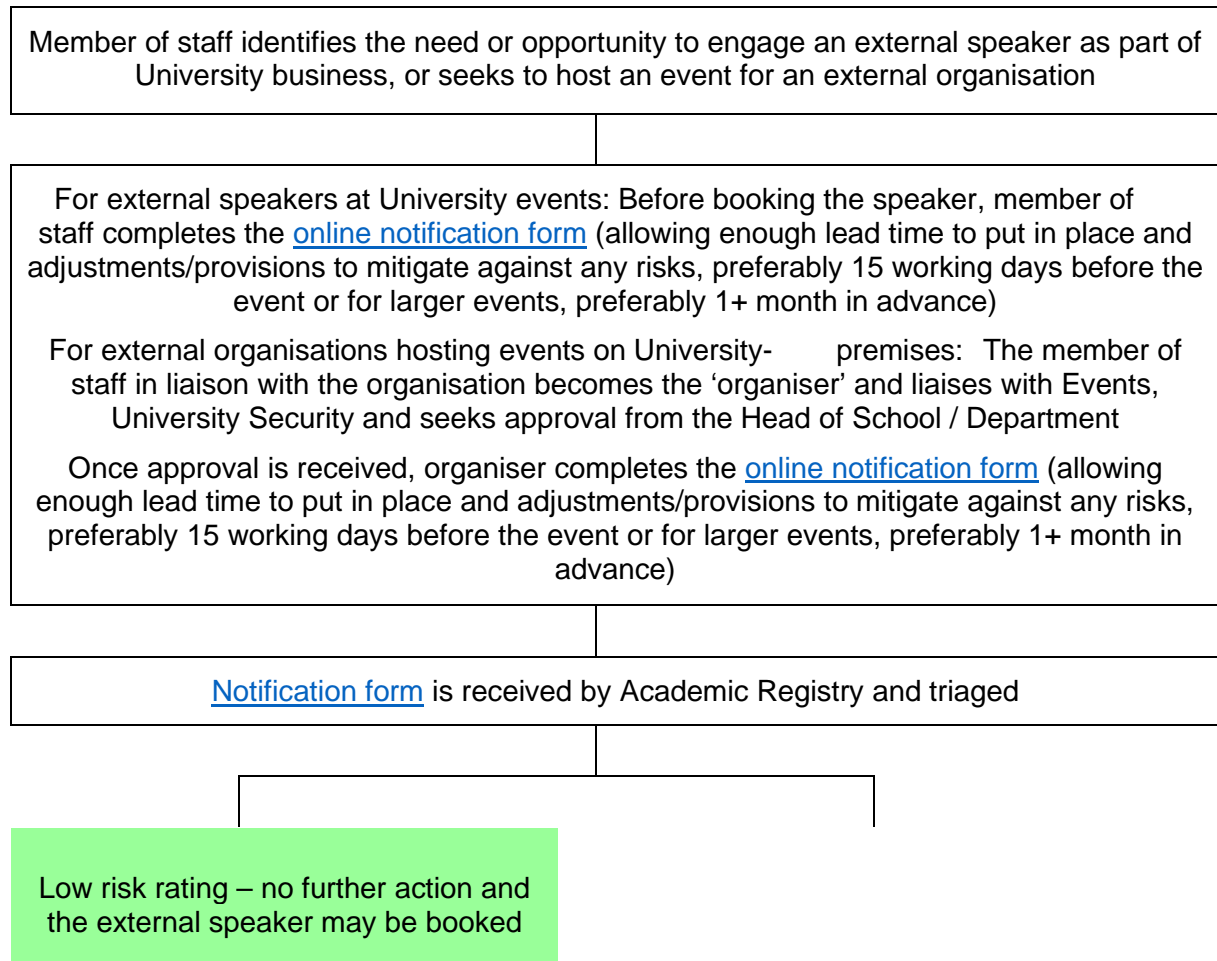
6.2.6. The speaker has not been known to express views that may be in breach of this policy

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- Discriminate against or harass any person or group on the grounds of their sex, gender identity, race, nationality or state of origin, ethnicity, disability, religion and belief (including non-belief), sexual orientation or age
- Enforce segregation
- Defame any person or organisation
- Raise or gather funds for any external organisation or cause without express permission of the University
- Commit any other act that could be in breach of criminal law

Students and staff attending any event are expected to adhere to all University policies including Dignity and Respect, and behave in an appropriate manner.

Appendix 2: External Speakers Notification Procedure



The event, as planned, would be open to staff and students only. The intention is for the chair of the Palestinian Society to chair the event. He is relatively new in post and has little experience of chairing such events. There are no other events planned that will explore alternative views of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

The academic completes the questions in the notification, answering 'no', 'unsure' and 'unsure'.

The University Prevent Lead contacts the academic to discuss the event. They both investigate online the speaker, to see if the accusations about the speaker supporting violent means appear valid. For more advice, the University Prevent Lead contacts the Department for Education's Regional Prevent Coordinator for advice. It is decided that the event can go ahead, and that the academic would support the chair with ensuring freedom of speech at the event and managing of any issues that arise. The Security Team are notified and are in close contact before the event.