

Fitness to Practise – FAQs

As a student on a professionally registered course, what standards of conduct am I held to?

Section Four of the Student Code of Conduct applies to all students of USW.

Section Five contains additional, professional standards that only apply to students on professionally registered courses.

How do I know if my course is professionally registered?

A list of courses leading to professional registration is available in Appendix I of the Student Misconduct Regulations.

What happens if a concern is raised about my fitness to practise?

The Faculty will usually meet with you in the first instance to discuss the concerns. The Procedure for Stage 1: Cause for Concern outlines the sanctions that can be applied at this stage.

If it is decided that the concerns need to be investigated, the Faculty would refer the case to the Student Casework Unit (see Procedure for Stage 2: Investigations into Student Misconduct & Fitness to Practise).

What will happen while the concern is being looked into?

You may be suspended from your placement area until a conclusion about your fitness to practise is reached.

You would still be expected to complete assessments/non-placement work unless it is specified otherwise.

How long will the investigation take?

The Investigating Officer will aim to complete their investigation and report within 30 working days. This will be shared with the Dean or their nominee who will decide whether to a) dismiss the case, b) apply a sanction or c) refer the case to a disciplinary hearing.

If your case is referred to a hearing, this will take place within a further 20 working days.

I have been invited to a disciplinary hearing and I want to call witnesses. Who can I invite?

You can call witnesses to a hearing, but they must be people who have either been spoken to as part of the investigation, or people you asked the Investigating Officer to speak to.

If the witness was not interviewed, we may ask them to complete a questionnaire before allowing them to attend the hearing, so we can ascertain their relevance to the allegations.

I want to make a report of misconduct against a student on a fitness to practise course. How do I do this?

If you are a fellow student or member of the public, you should either complete an Allegation of Misconduct Form (available on the Student Conduct webpage) or make a report via Report & Support. This will then be shared with the student's Faculty who may submit a professional concern against the student in question.