



Student Charter

2023–2024

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“The Student Charter represents our commitment to each other. It highlights how our community works together, to empower one another and generate a learning environment that's transformative and inspiring. Collaboration and co-creation are key themes throughout the charter, as we recognise the strength of our diverse community as active participants in our future development. We hope you embrace the opportunities represented here and help us celebrate your success.”

Professor Katie Normington, De Montfort University (DMU) Vice-Chancellor

“De Montfort Students' Union continues to empower students, build communities, and provide opportunities to give you the best student experience possible. We are grateful for the collaborative and positive work our colleagues in DMU do to listen and act on the student voice, and we are proud that all of you are on this journey with us to bring the Student Charter to life.”

De Montfort Students' Union (DSU) Executive Officer Team

“A positive student experience that expands our learning is what the university is for. I know as a course rep that the students' voice is vital for making De Montfort University as good as it can be - for students and for staff. A top-class education, with support, leading to great careers for the full diversity of students is our goal. This charter helps create excellence at DMU.”

Toni, DMU course representative and mature student





DSU will...

- ...respect all students, staff and the wider community, contributing to a safe and inclusive environment
- ...represent your academic interests through [student representatives](#) and student-led academic societies
- ...provide [free, confidential and independent advice](#) on your course, wellbeing and wider student experience
- ...create [opportunities](#) through student societies, clubs, collectives and volunteering for your enjoyment, personal development and sense of belonging
- ...ensure an [independent voice](#) at university, supporting you where needed
- ...provide [elected officer](#) roles that represent and celebrate the diversity of students at DMU
- ...provide an inclusive and creative environment that hosts social events for you to create friendships
- ...give you a voice to represent your peers and create change through democratic structures across the university
- ...be led by **YOU**. DSU is your Students' Union, where you can shape the student experience through the Student Council, Annual Members Meeting and by standing to represent your fellow students in free, fair and transparent elections.

DMU will...

- ...expect all students, staff and the wider community to contribute to a safe and inclusive environment
- ...provide excellent teaching, learning opportunities and student support
- ...continually review its curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities
- ...encourage your personal growth, and support collaborative and [co-creative working](#) between students, staff, employers and DSU to ensure a rewarding student experience
- ...provide you with a personal tutor to guide you through your university experience
- ...empower you to develop the tools to build the confidence and skills to succeed, and to achieve your full potential
- ...provide opportunities for student representation and the student voice at every level of the university
- ...continue to enhance its digital environment to support your studies and transform your experience
- ...provide [practical opportunities](#) and [support for learning](#)
- ...support your personal wellbeing and aspirations through the [Healthy DMU Hub](#), [DMU Works](#) and [DMUsport](#)
- ...recognise and celebrate your contributions, and those of your peers, to the success of the university
- ...take a proactive approach to communications with its students
- ...provide an equitable learning experience for every DMU student through Universal Design for Learning





As a DMU student I will...

- ...respect all students, staff and the wider community to contribute to a safe and inclusive environment for all, in line with the [Student Code of Conduct](#)
- ...demonstrate full commitment to my course by attending and participating in learning and teaching, and academic support activities
- ...demonstrate [academic integrity](#) throughout my university experience and not engage in fraudulent academic practices
- ...make the most of the services provided by DMU and DSU that could enhance my personal and professional development
- ...respond in a timely manner and directly to all communications from the university, my faculty or my course tutors
- ...consider the opportunities offered to me to engage with co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, which may be facilitated by the university, the Students' Union and local community, to enrich my overall student experience
- ...take advantage of opportunities which allow me to amplify the student voice, to enhance the student experience for myself and others

Glossary

Term	Meaning
Academic contact (named)	When you begin your studies at DMU, you will be given the name of an academic member of staff (eg personal tutor) who will follow your academic progress and be able to guide and advise you on matters to do with your programme.
Academic integrity	Academic integrity is about honesty and trust and is fundamental to all learning, teaching and research activity at DMU. This means doing your own work, submitting your own work, gaining credit for your own work and acknowledging the work of others accurately and appropriately.
Academic interests	Everything to do with your studies and your academic progress while a student at DMU. This also includes opportunities for you to use your voice and express your views constructively to enhance your student experience.
Academic practices (fraudulent)	<p>Good academic practices are underpinned by academic integrity (see above). Examples of fraudulent academic practices include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Buying an essay from an organisation or website rather than completing an assignment yourself (also known as contract cheating)▪ Getting a third party (eg relative or friend, Chat GPT) to complete an assignment on your behalf and submitting it as your own work▪ Fabricating results (eg claiming to have carried out data collection that you have not in fact carried out) <p>Fraudulent academic practices ultimately undermine the value of your degree. See also academic offences. Examples of academic offences include plagiarism, cheating, collusion, copying work, undertaking research without ethics approval, inappropriate use of ChatGPT and GenAI, (Home - Using Generative Artificial Intelligence - LibGuides at De Montfort University (dmu.ac.uk)), etc.</p>

Term	Meaning
Annual Members Meeting (AMM)	The AMM is a chance for the entire membership of the DSU to debate, discuss and vote on some of the most important issues currently affecting students. It is also where the DSU Executive Committee present the finance budget, discuss affiliations and pass constitutional changes.
Co-creative working	Co-creative working is about co-designing elements of your student experience with academic staff, professional services or external partners. Examples might be co-designing an assessment activity or co-developing a process or procedure.
Course tutors	Your course/programme will be delivered by a team of academic staff including the programme leader who leads and manages your programme (course), the module leader who manages and oversees learning, teaching and assessment in a specific module, and module tutors (who may also be the programme or module leaders) who deliver and manage the content and assessment of a learning and teaching activity.
Faculty	<p>DMU has four faculties:</p> <p>ADH - Arts, Design and Humanities</p> <p>BAL - Business and Law</p> <p>CEM - Computing, Engineering and Media</p> <p>HLS - Health and Life Sciences</p> <p>Your programme of study (or course) will be located in one of these faculties.</p>
Student representation and the student voice	Your views (student voice) about your studies and your student experience will be captured through several mechanisms (eg module/programme evaluation surveys, Student Voice Committees, Programme Management Boards, etc.) and will be represented to your faculty and the university through the DSU and through course representatives.
Universal Design for Learning (UDL)	<p>UDL is about embedding inclusivity and aims to provide an equitable learning experience for all students. Its three key principles are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) flexible ways of learning; 2) flexible study resources; and 3) flexible ways of testing learning.