

## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON DELHI

### Anti-Ragging Policy

#### 1. Introduction

The University of Southampton Delhi (UoSD) is committed to maintaining a safe, inclusive, and respectful learning environment for all students. Ragging in any form is strictly prohibited within the University and in all spaces associated with it. Ragging is a criminal offence under Indian law and is treated with zero tolerance by the University.

This Policy is framed in accordance with the **University Grants Commission Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009** ("UGC Regulations, 2009"), and relevant directives of the Supreme Court of India. The University aligns its approach with good practice followed by leading Indian higher education institutions, including central universities and private universities, ensuring robust preventive, monitoring, and disciplinary mechanisms.

#### 2. Legal Framework

This Policy is formulated in accordance with:

- I. UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009 (under Section 26(1)(g) of the UGC Act, 1956).
- II. Directives of the Supreme Court of India on prevention of ragging.
- III. Applicable provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including but not limited to Sections 294, 323, 506, 509, 307, and 302 (as applicable)

Ragging is a cognizable offence and may result in criminal proceedings in addition to university disciplinary action.

#### 3. Scope

This Policy applies to:

- I. All Undergraduate, Postgraduate Taught, and Postgraduate Research students (Home and International).
- II. Students residing in university hostels or any accommodation recognised/affiliated with the University.
- III. Students participating in academic, cultural, sports, fieldwork, study tours, placements, or any activity conducted under the aegis of the University.
- IV. Conduct occurring on campus, off campus, in transit, in hostels, or through online/digital platforms.

This Policy does not apply to:

- I. Other student discipline matters which will be considered under the [Student Discipline Regulations](#)

#### **4. Definition of Ragging**

As per UGC Regulations, ragging includes any conduct by words (spoken or written), acts, or electronic communication that has the effect of:

- I. Teasing, treating, or handling a student with rudeness.
- II. Engaging in rowdy or undisciplined activities causing annoyance, hardship, physical or psychological harm.
- III. Forcing a student to perform acts that cause embarrassment, shame, humiliation, or danger.
- IV. Disrupting academic activities or affecting a student's mental health and dignity.
- V. Physical, emotional, or sexual abuse.
- VI. Isolation, bullying, public embarrassment.
- VII. Online harassment, including through social media or messaging platforms.

Ragging includes both direct and indirect acts and applies regardless of intent.

#### **5. Objectives**

- I. To prohibit, prevent, and eliminate ragging in all forms.
- II. To ensure a safe, dignified, and inclusive academic environment.
- III. To promote mutual respect and responsible student conduct.
- IV. To create awareness regarding the legal and institutional consequences of ragging.

#### **6. Prohibition of Ragging**

Ragging is strictly prohibited:

- I. Within academic buildings, libraries, laboratories, and administrative offices.
- II. In hostels, dining areas, common rooms, and transport facilities.
- III. During cultural, sports, or academic events.
- IV. During internships, placements, field visits, or tours.
- V. Through online platforms, social media, or messaging groups.

#### **7. Preventive Measures**

In compliance with UGC Regulations, the University shall:

- I. Obtain mandatory Anti-Ragging Undertakings (affidavits) from students and their parents/guardians at the time of admission, in the prescribed format. This will be confirming awareness of:
  - a. The prohibition of ragging.
  - b. Legal and disciplinary consequences.
  - c. Their obligation to report incidents.
  - d. Admission shall remain provisional until submission of the required undertaking.
- II. Conduct orientation and sensitisation programmes for new and senior students.
- III. Publicly display anti-ragging rules, penalties, and helpline information prominently across campus and on the University website.
- IV. Establish an Anti-Ragging Group
- V. Conduct surprise inspections in hostels and other student areas.
- VI. Encourage mentorship programmes and student engagement initiatives.
- VII. Maintain liaison with local authorities where necessary.

## **8. Institutional Mechanisms**

### **8.1 Anti-Ragging Group**

A University-level Anti-Ragging Group shall oversee implementation of this Policy.

#### **Composition includes:**

- I. Chair - Director – Teaching & Learning – Dr Sagaya Amalathas
- II. Head Student Experience – Dr Nalini Sharan
- III. Faculty Representatives – Dr Samiya Khan
- IV. Warden/Hostel Representative – Anupama Saini
- V. Administrative Representative – Syed Hamraz
- VI. Student Representatives – Harsh Rana & Vanshika Sirohi
- VII. Parent Representative – Suman Tripathi
- VIII. Student Support Manager – Riya Kapoor

The Group shall:

- I. Monitor anti-ragging measures.
- II. Investigate complaints.
- III. Recommend disciplinary action.
- IV. Submit compliance reports to UGC as required.

### **8.2 Anti-Ragging Squads**

The University shall constitute Anti-Ragging Squads to conduct regular and surprise checks in hostels, common areas, and other vulnerable locations.

- I. Director Learning & Teaching – Dr Sagaya Amalathas
- II. Manager – SAAA – Ms Yashashree Datar
- III. Student – Sara Tripathi & Jai Gupta
- IV. NGO Background Person – To Be Confirmed

## **9. Reporting and Redressal Mechanism**

### **9.1 Reporting Channels**

Complaints may be made:

- I. In person to any faculty member, warden, or Group member.
- II. By email: [\*\*studenthub@delhi.southampton.ac.uk\*\*](mailto:studenthub@delhi.southampton.ac.uk)
- III. Via telephone helpline: +91 124 4288000 (Ext: 1)
- IV. Through a confidential complaint/suggestion box on campus.
- V. Through the national anti-ragging portal ([www.antiragging.in](http://www.antiragging.in)).
- VI. Via the University's "Report and Support" platform.

Anonymous complaints shall be accepted and investigated, subject to available evidence.

The University shall ensure confidentiality and protection against victimisation.

## **10. Inquiry Procedure**

All anti-ragging complaints shall be handled in a fair, time-bound, and confidential manner.

### **10.1 Preliminary Review**

- I. Complaints should ordinarily be submitted within 30 working days of the incident.
- II. Acknowledgment shall be provided within 5 working days.
- III. A preliminary inquiry shall determine whether a prima facie case exists.

### **10.2 Investigation**

- I. A Neutral Investigating Officer shall be appointed from the Anti-Ragging Group.
- II. Both complainant and respondent shall be given an opportunity to be heard.
- III. Proceedings may include meetings, written submissions, and collection of evidence.
- IV. A written report with findings and recommendations shall be submitted.

### **10.3 Timelines**

- I. Stage 1 outcome: normally within 30 working days.
- II. Appeals (Stage 2/3) shall follow structured timelines in accordance with university complaints procedures.
- III. Delays, where unavoidable, shall be communicated in writing.

The University reserves discretion to determine the appropriate procedural stage depending on the seriousness of the complaint.

### **11. Disciplinary Actions**

If a student is found guilty of ragging, the Anti-Ragging Group may recommend one or more of the following penalties in accordance with UGC Regulations:

- I. Suspension from attending classes and academic privileges.
- II. Withholding or withdrawing scholarships/fellowships.
- III. Debarring from examinations or evaluation processes.
- IV. Withholding examination results.
- V. Debarring from representing the institution.
- VI. Suspension or expulsion from hostel accommodation.
- VII. Cancellation of admission.
- VIII. Rustication for 1–4 semesters.
- IX. Expulsion from the institution.
- X. Fine (typically ranging from Rs25,000 to Rs1,00,000 or as determined appropriate).
- XI. Collective punishment where individual perpetrators cannot be identified.
- XII. Referral to the police for suspected criminal offences.

Penalties shall be proportionate to the severity and nature of the misconduct.

### **12. Completion of Procedure and External Remedies**

Upon exhaustion of internal procedures, a Completion of Procedures letter may be issued. Students retain the right to approach appropriate external authorities or courts, subject to applicable law.

#### **12.1 Related documents**

This policy should be read in conjunction with other University of Southampton documents:

- I. [The University Calendar, Section IV: General Academic Regulations](#)
- II. [The University of Southampton Student Charter](#)

III. [Inclusion and Respectful Behaviour Policy](#)

IV. [Equality and Diversity Strategic Plan](#)

### **13. Contact Information**

#### **Anti-Ragging Cell**

University of Southampton Delhi, Ground & First Floor, Phase-II, Block 3, International Tech Park, Gurgaon, Haryana – 122101, India

By email: [studenthub@delhi.southampton.ac.uk](mailto:studenthub@delhi.southampton.ac.uk)

Via telephone helpline: +91 124 4288000 (Ext: 1)

#### **Policy Review**

This policy shall be reviewed every three (3) years or earlier if required, by the Anti-Ragging Cell in consultation with the COO and relevant faculty stakeholders.