ESCAPE STUDIOS

Student
Wellbeing Policy

Contents

1 Purpose and Core Principles

1.1 Escape Studios is committed to enabling students to achieve academic and professional success. We place students at the centre of all our activities and adopt a holistic approach to supporting the student journey. Emotional and physical wellbeing are fundamental to positive student learning, engagement and achievement. Escape Studios recognises that, alongside many rewarding experiences, university life can bring anxieties, pressures and challenges.

1.2 To promote student wellbeing, Escape Studios has established a range of academic, social, psychological, and financial provisions. These seek to support students' academic success, foster inclusive communities, build confidence and resilience in students, as well as prepare career-ready graduates.

1.3   Escape Studios is committed to evolve and enhance its provision continuously to promote student welfare.

2   Definition

Wellbeing is defined by the World Health Organisation as "a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". In the context of student wellbeing, the term, customarily, refers to a person's state of happiness and fulfilment, associated with welfare, low levels of anxiety, as well as a sense of purpose, self-realisation, and social connectedness.

3   Academic Achievement

Escape Studios commits to provide student-centred, academically enriching, industry-focussed education which supports personal achievement. Escape Studios, further, seeks to pro-actively mitigate learner anxiety and assist students who need additional support to thrive:

(a)   **Flexible, inclusive, industry-focused programmes** support a diversity of student journeys, learning interests and career aspirations.

(b)   **A contemporary, adaptive, purpose-build learning environment** of physical and online resources supports effective academic engagement and skills development.

(c)   Comprehensive **digital learning resources**, with tailored adaptations to facilitate student access.

(d)   **Self-managed independent learning** embedded in programme design enables students to tailor their education to their personal academic and professional interests.

(e)   **Personal Tutors** advise students on academic and pastoral issues, and signpost students to additional Escape Studios-based or external agency support.

(f) **Additional Learning Support** assists students with specialised learning and assessment provision for a range of disabilities and/ or learning difficulties.

(g) **Study Skills** support promote good academic practice, digital literacy, and achievement in research and academic writing.

(h) **Academic progress** policies support students with exceptional circumstances.

(i) Opportunities to accelerate, decelerate, **transfer** between programmes and modes of study allow students to adapt their learning to their individual preferences and personal circumstances.

(j) Specialised **disability awareness** and inclusive learning development for staff.

4   Social Community

A range of provision seeks to foster student integration, and a sense of belonging and social connectedness in students.

(a) As well as screening applicants, **admissions workshops** give students a taster of study at Escape Studios, and start a learning community before enrolment.

(b) Clear **pre-arrival information** and engaging, tailored **induction** facilitate students' transition into student life at Escape Studios.

(c) Escape Studios' **pedagogy** fosters collaborative working and commercial awareness.

(d) Appropriate measures **safeguard** the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.

(e) **Partnership with students** on Escape Studios initiatives and developments empowers students to influence positive changes to their learning experience and environment.

(f) **The design of communal spaces** fosters socialisation and collaborative working.

(g) **Student – tutor academic partnerships** lead to publications and international conference presentations.

(h)   **Students Association (SA)** represents the student body and organises student events, sports, and societies.

(i)   **Student Representation** is embedded in all aspects of governance as an essential conduit of the student voice and a continuous opportunity to enhance the student academic and pastoral experience.

(j)   **Student Ambassadors** work with prospective students, faculty, external organisations, and industry partners on outreach activities and events, thereby positively influencing the experience of applicants and students, while themselves gaining valuable transferrable skills.

(k)   **Inclusivity and Wellbeing Student Ambassadors** work on initiatives that promote wellbeing, foster an inclusive community and support students from under-represented groups who would benefit from such peer engagement.

(l)   **Programme of events** ranging from industry engagement through suicide prevention awareness to wellbeing promotion.

(m)   Tailored **career development opportunities**, including talent development, employer mentorship, industry networks and events, success and employability programme for students from under-represented groups.

(n)   **Prevent Duty** monitoring deters students from being drawn into terrorism, while safeguarding Escape Studios' students and staff, and protecting freedom of expression.

(o)   **Student Experience Team** support the Students' Association, promote the student voice, facilitate student engagement in opportunities for student members of Escape Studios, and run student-facing initiatives which seek to engender a collegiate and connected student community.

(p)   **Mentorship and buddy schemes** support student transitions, student sense of belonging and student success.

(q)   Student **clubs and societies** unite students with shared interests.

5   Psychological Wellbeing

Escape Studios offers tailored, specialised assistance to students who need support to achieve their potential.

(a) Specialised Counselling Service for students experiencing challenging life events.

(b) Signposting to appropriate external agencies for targeted assistance.

(c) Mental Health Awareness training for Escape Studios staff.

(d) **Student Safeguarding and Wellbeing Committee** continuously seeking to enhance Escape Studios' safeguarding and welfare provision.

6   Financial Assistance

Escape Studios makes a range of provisions to remove financial barriers to students benefiting from higher education*.*

a) **Student Services** offer advice and information on a wide range of topics centred around student life, including admissions, accommodation, finance, module and course transfers and exam arrangements.

b) **Bursaries** for students from low-income backgrounds from POLAR quintile 1 and IMD 1 neighbourhoods and students with experience of care to encourage participation in higher education.

c) **Hardship Fund** for students in unforeseen financial difficulty.

d) **Travel Grant** for low-income and care experienced students to attend admissions workshops.

e) **Laptop and Internet Grant** for low-income and care experienced students.

f) **Laptop loans** for students in temporary need.

7   Concerns for Student Welfare

All members of Escape Studios community – students and staff share a responsibility for student welfare.

a) Escape Studios aims to address concerns for student welfare **promptly and professionally**, with sensitivity and care, while maintaining confidentiality and proportionality, as appropriate. Measures include targeted pastoral and academic support, mental health counselling, hardship funds, additional learning needs and individual study skills support, referral to external agencies, e.g. NHS, Police, Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

b) A **reporting system** for prompt **safeguarding referrals**.

c) As the **Designated Safeguarding Co-ordinator**, the Dean of Academic Affairs oversees the prompt management, conclusion and monitoring of safeguarding referrals, including the co-ordination of the internal response and liaison with external agencies, as appropriate.

d) Regular **safeguarding training** empowering members of the Escape Studios community to recognise and report safeguarding concerns, as well as work with the student(s) concerned, within limits of own authority.

e) **Student Safeguarding and Wellbeing Committee** monitoring safeguarding referral trends with a view to enhancement action.

8   Roles and Responsibilities

The following have responsibility for wellbeing provision:

a) The **Principal** has overall responsibility for student wellbeing provision at Escape Studios.

b) The **Chief Operating Officer** oversees the services and measures that contribute to student wellbeing.

c) The **Director of Registry and Student Services** has management oversight of the provision of student advice, support, additional learning needs and counselling.

d) **The Schools** are responsible for inclusive programme design, industry-relevant education and networks, and academic, pastoral and study support for students.

e) The **Dean of Academic Affairs** oversees safeguarding, Escape Studios' access and participation commitments, the information published to students, and works with the Student Experience Team over student representation and student consultations on institutional enhancements.

f) The Dean/ Director **Industry Engagement** is responsible for employer engagement, talent development and enhancing the social environment.

g) The **President of the Students' Association** is responsible for student clubs and societies and student engagement with institutional developments.

h) The **Student Counsellor** offers confidential counselling to students in need.

9   Affiliated Policies

This Policy is aligned to the following strategies and policies:

- Equality and Diversity Policy

- Safeguarding Policy

- Access and Participation Plan

- Prevent Duty Policy

- Students with Additional Learning Needs Policy

- Hardship and Access to Learning Fund

- Academic progress policies, including Attendance and Engagement, Extenuating Circumstances, Interruption of Studies, Fitness to Study etc.

10   Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Academic Board.

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