

## Beds SU Policy Ideal: Safe Campuses

Beds SU believes that all University of Bedfordshire campuses should be safe places for all students, free from sexual abuse and the University should actively try to reduce rape culture on campus.

### What are the facts?

There has been an increase in research, media activity and statements that have highlighted the prevalence of sexual assault & rape culture at universities.

One of these is called Everyone's Invited (<https://www.everyonesinvited.uk/>), an online movement aiming to eradicate rape culture by allowing survivors of sexual abuse to share their stories anonymously and provides a list of UK educational institutions that have been named in testimonies. As of the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2021, over 51,060 survivors have provided testimony, the majority detailing their experiences of sexual assault at UK universities and colleges.

Research from another organisation, Revolt Sexual Assault (<https://revoltsexualassault.com/research/>) indicates that as many as 62% of students experience sexual violence at UK universities (that figure could be as high as 70% for female students).

The Office for Students (OfS) have also released a statement of expectations (<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/d4ef58c0-db7c-4fc2-9fae-fcb94b38a7f3/ofs-statement-of-expectations-harassment-and-sexual-misconduct.pdf>) that describe what universities should do in order to tackle rape culture on campus.

### How does this impact students?

Students should be able to feel safe on campus. Students feeling safe will mean they learn better and feel more comfortable staying on campus and engaging in extra activities.

Students should feel they are free to talk about and report any instances of sexual harassment or rape culture without being judged or silenced.

**What is the Beds SU Ideal?**

- All students registered at a UoB, however and wherever they may be studying should be protected from harassment and sexual misconduct from other students, staff and visitors.
- Reduce the number of incidents of sexual assaults at the University of Bedfordshire
- UoB implement all the [expectations](#) set out by the Office for Students (OfS) including;
  - Improved transparency from UoB on reported cases of sexual harassment on campus
  - Improvements in the reporting and investigation of sexual harassment, ensuring process are co-created with students to ensure they student friendly
  - Mandatory training for staff & students on sexual harassment and consent
  - Improved access to support is offered to any student affected by sexual assault or rape culture regardless of whether a formal complaint is made.
- The University should refrain from the use of non-disclosure agreements in relation to sexual assault cases