

Hertford College external speakers and events policy

The college is legally required as an educational institution to comply with the PREVENT Duty, under Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015). In fulfillment of this duty, the Dean's permission is required for any events to which external speakers are invited by students. This includes external speakers and events on site as well as institution-branded, funded or affiliated events taking place off site. Our policy reflects our institutional duty to ensure freedom of speech (within the law) in College (including in any institution-branded, funded or affiliated events taking place off-site) as well as our arrangements to protect the importance of academic freedom. Thus, this policy ensures strict implementation of Hertford College's policy to secure the primacy of the right to free expression within the College, and for external speakers, consistent with the Education (No 2) Act 1986. The College's PREVENT policy document can be found at <http://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/content/files/my-hertford/PREVENT%20Policy%20%28Final%29.pdf> and our Freedom of Speech policy at <http://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/content/files/my-hertford/Hertford%20College%20Freedom%20of%20Speech%20Policy.pdf>

In particular:

- Only criminal speech is proscribed
- Speakers and audience alike should be reminded of their responsibilities to observe the relevant College's policies on harassment and to conduct civil academic discussions at all times.
- Where the context and apparent subject of an event leads us to judge that some due diligence is required, it would be proportionate and appropriate to carry out some open-source research. In such cases where risks associated with an external event were identified, College would call on the University Security Services and the Proctors for advice on how to assess and mitigate high risk events in order to ensure a safe and well-managed event.
- If an event seems likely to cause security concerns, the Head of House reserves the right to take steps to address such concerns, such as relocating that event to premises where the safety of all participants can be properly provided for.

Junior Members of College may book certain rooms for meetings and events. Please read 'Booking of Public Rooms by Junior Members' (in Information for Members (<http://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/content/files/my-hertford/Information%20for%20Members%202015.pdf>), or in the room booking section of the website at <https://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/my-hertford/forms-and-bookings/room-booking>), which gives details of the rooms available, the rules attached to their use and on-line booking forms. **Please note that any bookings which will involve external speakers or the attendance of members of the public (i.e. non-members of the University) must be discussed with, and authorised by, the Dean, normally at least one month in advance, in writing.**

Fellows and lecturers may book rooms directly **online** (password and username available from IT) or via the lodge. Members of academic staff are responsible for risk-assessing their own events and may consult with Professor Alison Woollard (alison.woollard@hertford.ox.ac.uk) if they are in any doubt about how to go about this. Any other member of staff, including Development Office staff and those organizing conferences and summer schools, who wishes to book a room for an external speaker or event will first discuss this with the Bursar who will complete any appropriate risk assessment.

Those risk assessing events in order to comply with the PREVENT duty should be aware of their responsibilities to consider the College's duties under the PREVENT duty strictly within the context of pre-existing rights, including under the Human Rights Act, the Education (No 2) Act and the Equality Act.

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Policy on the management and use of the Chapel

The management and use of the College Chapel is undertaken and overseen by the College Chaplain, who is required to exercise her or his responsibilities in such a way as to secure and protect the primacy of free expression within the College, and for all external speakers approved by the Dean, including under the Education (No 2) Act 1986, and equal treatment under the law.

AW 3/4/17

Hertford College Freedom of Speech Policy

Free speech is the lifeblood of a university. It enables the pursuit of knowledge. It helps us approach truth. It allows students, teachers and researchers to become better acquainted with the variety of beliefs, theories and opinions in the world. Recognizing the vital importance of free expression for the life of the mind, a university may make rules concerning the conduct of debate but should never prevent speech that is lawful.

Inevitably, this will mean that members of the College are confronted from time to time with views that some find unsettling, extreme or offensive. The College must therefore foster freedom of expression within a framework of robust civility. Not all theories deserve equal respect. A university values expertise and intellectual achievement as well as openness. But, within the bounds set by law, all voices or views which any member of our community considers relevant should be given the chance of a hearing. Wherever possible, they should also be exposed to evidence, questioning and argument. As an integral part of this commitment to freedom of expression, we will take steps to ensure that all exchanges happen peacefully, with appropriate regulation of the time, place and manner of events. Neither speakers nor listeners should have any reasonable grounds to feel intimidated or concerned, and any who do should consult the college Harassment Code (available from the College Office).

It is this understanding of the central importance and specific roles of free speech in a university that underlies all the detailed procedures of the University of Oxford/Hertford College, laid out below:

The College adheres to the University Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech available at http://www.ox.ac.uk/media/global/wwwoxacuk/localsites/gazette/documents/supplements2014-15/Code_of_Practice_on_Freedom_of_Speech_-_2014_to_No_5092.pdf

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