COVID-19 Student Code of Conduct Addendum

1. As the University adapts to the global COVID-19 pandemic we are committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of our students, staff, and visitors to our campuses, as well as the communities in which we operate. This is central to all decision making about how we operate campus life during the pandemic. The COVID-19 Student Code of Conduct Addendum sets out the expected conduct of those in our community and the internal processes that will be followed if there is a suspected breach of our policies, procedures and terms and conditions.

2. The Student Code of Conduct Addendum should be read in conjunction with the current Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedure; UCA Covid-19 Induction; and Accommodation Terms and Conditions.

3. The principles underpinning this Addendum are informed by Universities UK guidance (June 2020) and are:

3.1 That the health, safety and wellbeing of students, staff, visitors and the wider community will be the priority of the University in relation to decision-making for Covid-19 matters;

3.2 That appropriate and proportionate changes to University operations will be made in accordance with public health advice;

3.3 That there will be flexibility in the delivery of services to enable a high-quality experience and to support students to achieve their learning outcomes in a safe manner;

3.4 That the University will keep under review the wellbeing and mental health needs of students ensuring proactive and preventative measures are considered to maintain safety and wellbeing.

3.5 That we will seek to minimise risk and instil confidence about a Covid-secure environment.

4. The University will minimise risk to students, staff and visitors. The University will provide support and guidance to allow us all to make responsible choices. In particular, all students are required to familiarise themselves with the latest guidance issued as part of their arrival or return to campus titled ‘UCA Stay Safe Covid-19 Induction’ which contains important information on the expectations and requirements of students while on UCA campuses. https://myuca.uca.ac.uk/webapps/blackboard/content/listContentEditable.jsp?content_id=_1074740_1&course_id=_7421_1 [this link goes to the UCA inductions pages on myUCA and is only accessible by UCA students].

5. All members of our community have an individual and collective responsibility to minimise the risk to themselves and others. There is an expectation for all members of our community to understand, respect and follow government and local health, safety and wellbeing requirements for the safety of all persons while on campus or on University business, for example, Field Trips.
6. Equally there is a duty to those living and working in the local communities surrounding our University campuses that students should behave responsibly when not on campus to protect the safety of everyone. Failure to do so could lead to action being taken against you by authorities, such as the Police that could impact not only on your reputation but that of the University too.

7. These requirements will be responsive to changing public health needs, be adaptive to local or national lockdown requirements, and will support existing health and safety legislation and needs. Areas of required compliance will be related to the latest guidance on:

7.1 Social distancing;
7.2 Social gatherings (including halls and private sector accommodation);
7.3 Wearing of face coverings;
7.4 Adherence to safety measures;
7.5 Hygiene, particularly in public or communal areas;
7.6 Self-isolation;
7.7 Sharing information promptly through the NHS test and trace service;
7.8 Informing the University if you are unwell and have symptoms or if you have received test results (confirmed positive or negative).

These requirements are not an exhaustive list and as guidance is updated through the pandemic period further areas may be added.

8. All members of our University community should be aware and mindful of their own behaviour and conduct and recognise when this could have adverse consequences for ourselves, others in our community and external public services, such as the NHS and Police. This will include educational and social conduct in person and online; and behavioural conduct on and off campus including in halls and private sector housing, where covered by our regulations.

9. Reports of inappropriate behaviour or conduct will be taken seriously by the University. Our emphasis will be to educate and raise community awareness. University staff will endeavour to remind and engage with students where conduct is seen or reported that may fall below the expectations of behaviour set out in this Addendum and University Regulations. Where appropriate, if conduct is suspected to be a breach of our regulations or codes of conduct, we may use our existing procedures to manage the health, safety and wellbeing of others and the campus. Not all people can wear a face covering and it is important to be respectful where this is the case. For more information on the Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedure, please see: http://webdocs.ucreative.ac.uk/Rules_for_Student_Conduct-1471443960156.pdf; in particular, the recent change that has been approved by the Board of Governors Appendix A 2 (xviii) which states that ‘[a] Failure to abide by Public Health Guidelines applicable within England as amended from time to time, or with measures put in place by the University to adopt those guidelines or otherwise protect the safety of the University’s staff, students or visitors’ [may amount to student misconduct].

We hope no action will need to be taken and look forward to seeing all students working and living in a safe responsible manner during their time at UCA, as we work through these difficult times together.