University Computing Regulations

The University of Edinburgh has adopted a set of Regulations to cover the use of all its computing and network facilities by staff, students and any other persons authorised to use them.

Regulations covering the use of Computing Facilities

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Introduction and Definitions

These Regulations cover the use by users of all computing facilities administered on behalf of the University of Edinburgh (hereafter UoE).

As well as these Regulations, users must abide by other policies and/or codes as relevant, including but not limited to internal UoE codes such as:

- the Code of Student Conduct;
- the relevant staff disciplinary policy;
- the University Data Protection Policy;
- the Dignity and Respect Policy, Trans Equality Policy and any related documents;
- the policy on the storage, transmission and use of personal data and sensitive business information out with the University computing environment;
- the Information Security Policy;
- the BYOD Policy: Use of Personally Owned Devices for University Work.

And external codes such as:

- the Acceptable Use Policy of the Joint Academic Network (JANET) available on the Web at http://www.ja.net/documents/publications/policy/aup.pdf (PDF);
- the Computing Regulations or similar codes imposed by remote sites, where their computing facilities are accessed or used by UoE users.

It is not the intention of UoE that these Regulations should be used to unreasonably limit recognised academic freedoms.

In these Regulations

"Computing facilities" includes central [computing] services as provided by UoE Information Services and any [computing] service operated by or on behalf of UoE; UoE School or College computers and services; personally owned computers and peripherals, and remote networks and services, when accessed from or via UoE computing facilities; and all programmable equipment; any associated software and data, including data created by
persons other than users, and the networking elements which link computing facilities.

"users" include staff, students, prospective students and any other person authorised to use computing facilities

"files" include data and software but do not include manual files.

**Regulations**

1. **Status of Regulations**

   Breach of these Regulations is a disciplinary offence and may be dealt with under the appropriate disciplinary code or procedures. Where an offence has occurred under UK or Scots law, it may also be reported to the police or other appropriate authority. The rules applicable to investigating breaches or suspected breaches are in Regulation 6 below.

2. **Private and inappropriate use of computing facilities**

   Computing facilities are provided solely for use by staff in accordance with their normal duties of employment, and by students in connection with their university education. All other use is private. Private use is allowed, as a privilege and not a right, but if abused will be treated as a breach of these Regulations. Any use which does not breach any other Regulation herein, but nonetheless brings the University into disrepute may also be treated as a breach of these Regulations.

3. **Damage of computing facilities**

   No person shall, unless appropriately authorised, take any action which damages, restricts, or undermines the performance, usability or accessibility of computing facilities; "taking action" may include neglect, where action might reasonably have been expected as part of a user's duties.

4. **Compliance with UK civil and criminal law**

   Users must comply with the provisions of any current UK or Scots law, including but not restricted to:

   a. intellectual property law, including laws concerning copyright, trademarks, and patents;
   b. the Computer Misuse Act 1990, and associated instruments;
   c. data protection laws;
   d. the interception and monitoring laws under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA 2000); and
   e. the Terrorism Act 2000, the Terrorism Act 2006 and the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015)
Under the Lawful Business Regulations (LBR), the UoE draws to the attention of all users the fact that their communications may be intercepted where lawful under RIPA 2000. The full University notice can be found at URL http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/information-services/about/policies-and-regulations/statutory-notices

The UoE also draws to the attention of all users the University’s statutory obligation under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015) to have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. The full University notice can be found at URL http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/information-services/about/policies-and-regulations/statutory-notices

The Terrorism Act (2000) defines terrorism in section 1 of the Act, see http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/11/section/1. Users must also comply with the terms of any licence agreement between the UoE and a third party which governs the use of hardware, software or access to data.

5. Security, confidentiality and passwords

Users must take all reasonable care to maintain the security of computing facilities and information to which they have been given approved access. In particular, users must not transfer or share their passwords, or rights to access or use computing facilities, with anyone else. The confidentiality, integrity and security of all personally identifying data held, or processed on UoE systems must be respected, even where users have been authorised to access it.

Users must ensure that portable devices storing University information are protected by a pin, password, or similar mechanism, whether the device was purchased by the University, is personally owned or belongs to a third party. Additionally, if the information stored therein is of a sensitive nature, and should not be shared with the general public, the device must also be protected by the use of encryption. ¹

Information on the definitions of sensitive data can be found at http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/records-management-section/data-protection/guidance-policies/encrypting-sensitive-data

Guidance on how to encrypt portable devices can be found at http://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/computing/desktop-personal/information-security/information-security/protect-yourself/better-protection/encryption

¹ Please note that iPhones and iPads are automatically encrypted if you set a password. Android has an easy option in settings to encrypt the device.
Prior to terminating their relationship with the University, users must make appropriate arrangements for the secure return of all University equipment and for the secure destruction of University data in their possession, unless alternative arrangements are agreed beforehand with their line manager and approved by Head of School/Support Unit.

Users must ensure the secure destruction of all University data prior to disposing of computer equipment, including personally owned devices. These requirements also apply if any equipment is being sent for repair or upgrade as these actions could allow unauthorised third parties to have access to University information. If users are unsure of how to undertake this requirement, they must contact their IT support team for advice prior to disposing of the equipment.

Passwords used to access University systems or data must not be used to access external services such as Facebook, personal emails etc. Additionally, where possible, the same limitation should apply to usernames used in the University, whether centrally generated or created by individual users.

6. Investigation of breaches

If the UoE suspects any breach or potential breach of the Regulations, it shall have full and unrestricted power to access all relevant computing facilities and files (including mobile devices) and to take all steps which it may deem reasonable to remove or prevent distribution of any UoE material. It may also require that any encrypted data is made available in human-readable form. UoE may also immediately suspend a user's access to computing facilities and, where appropriate, examine such user's mobile device(s) for UoE material and remove any such material pending an investigation by an Authorised Officer or nominee of the University as defined in the relevant Discipline Code. Although we do not intend to wipe other data that is personal in nature (such as photographs or personal files or e-mails), it may not be possible to distinguish all such information from UoE material in all circumstances. Users who use mobile devices for University related activity should therefore regularly backup any personal data contained on their device(s).

7. Liability

By using the computing facilities each user agrees that the UoE shall have no liability for:

a. loss or corruption of any files or data contained therein;

b. loss or damage (excluding any liability for personal injury or death) to users or to third parties, or their equipment, operating systems or other assets; or
c. special, indirect or consequential loss or damage resulting from the use of UoE computing facilities or any withdrawal of the use of said facilities at any time by UoE.

Each user agrees that UoE has the right to take legal action against individuals who cause it to suffer loss or damage, including damage to its reputation, or be involved in legal proceedings as a result of their breach of these Regulations, and to seek reimbursement of such loss, or any associated costs including the costs of legal proceedings.

If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact Claire Maguire on 0131 650 4976 or email Claire.Maguire@ed.ac.uk