

Social media guidelines

1. This set of social media guidelines aims to set standards that are expected of all students with respect to the prevention of harassment; they are not intended to inhibit students' rights to freedom of speech. The College and university rules and policies concerning use of the university-wide computing network are available at:
<http://www.emma.cam.ac.uk/contact/students/computing/rules/>
2. You should be mindful that information shared on social media becomes public information and you should not use social media in any way that may compromise your reputation and, if you are studying or intending to work in a professional area such as health, education, social work or law, your 'fitness to practice'. Any content that you post about yourself or others could be brought to the attention of the College or the University, future employers and / or professional bodies and may be detrimental to your studies and / or future career. It is increasingly common practice for employers to use the internet to search for information about, or the behaviour of, those whom they are considering for employment.
3. You may not claim to speak on behalf of, or represent, the College on social media websites without the College's prior permission. You should not declare, imply or indicate that the content of any social media site under your control is representative of the College.
4. Social media (for example; Twitter; Facebook; Google+; LinkedIn; Instagram; and open forums and Blogs) are now a common feature of everyday life, enabling and supporting both students and staff in academic and collaborative opportunities. Unfortunately they are open to misuse and increasingly cited in cases of harassment, bullying and crime. Any form of harassment, including on social media platforms, is unacceptable and will be treated very seriously by the College.
5. You should be aware that while you yourself may not have posted offensive comments, by endorsing those made by others through for example, 'retweeting', 'liking', commenting on or sharing the comments of others, you may thus be risking your own reputation and / or be breaching the College's disciplinary regulations. Comments made on social media may be subject to civil action if they can reasonably be construed as defamatory or libellous: that is, damaging someone's reputation, and exposing them to hatred, ridicule or contempt. It is the same offence even if you have repeated comments by reposting or retweeting or otherwise endorsing them.
6. You should respect individual rights to privacy and have regard for the feelings of others. You must not disclose personal details, including pictures, of other students or staff without their prior permission.
7. You may not use the College's logos, crest etc without the College's prior written permission.
8. You should be mindful of the enduring nature of information posted on social media sites and should be careful not to write posts or share information, particularly when under the influence of substances that can affect judgement or behaviour (e.g. alcohol), that you may later come to regret.
9. You should take precautions when utilising social media sites to ensure your own personal safety and to protect against identity theft. You should exercise caution when accepting or sending invitations to interact over social media with anyone you have not met face-to-face.