

Exeter College, Oxford

Student-organised Meetings and Events (External Speakers) Policy

This policy must be read in the context of the College's [Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech](#), which places specific obligations on students when organising meetings and events, and which applies regardless of whether the meeting or event includes an external speaker. The Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech is available on the College website: www.exeter.ox.ac.uk/policies

Any student-organised event on the premises of Exeter College, where the speaker is not a member of Exeter College, or any event where there will be a debate, must have the permission of the Prevent Lead.

Permission should be sought from the Prevent Lead at least two calendar weeks before the event. Such request must be made using the [online form](#) which requires the organising student to agree that all speakers will abide by the policies, codes of practice and legal requirements placed upon the College. It will be the explicit responsibility of the person requesting the booking to ensure compliance by any external speaker with the policies enumerated in the next three paragraphs. Failure to undertake such an assurance will result in refusal of permission. Failure to abide by these procedures, including application at least two calendar weeks before the planned event, will result in refusal of permission.

Anyone speaking at an event booked into Exeter College premises must agree to abide by the College's policies and codes of practice on [Freedom of Speech](#), [Harassment](#), [Equality and Diversity](#), and must abide by all legal requirements placed upon the College by, not only but specifically, the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, the Equality Act 2010, the Human Rights Act (particularly Article 14), and various Education Acts (not least Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023).

The College has a legal duty to protect free speech and academic freedom, which is enshrined in the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023 and is also protected under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights which has effect through the Human Rights Act 1998. Academic freedom is also protected under the Education Reform Act 1998. The College is also required to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism' (Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015).

Further, the College has a legal duty to ensure that its policies against [harassment](#) and for [equality and diversity](#) are followed.

By College Order 25/097, this policy was approved by Governing Body on 8th October 2025, effective immediately and is to be reviewed by 30th November 2028 and was also approved for display on the website.

Room Booking Rules for External Speaker Events

1. Students of the College wishing to book a room must complete the Online Form available at <https://www.exeter.ox.ac.uk/forms/>.
2. All external speaker requests will be reviewed by the Prevent Lead.
3. As required by section 12 of the Terrorism Act 2000¹, the College will not provide a platform for speakers where it is known that:
 - the proposed speaker belongs to, or professes to belong to, a proscribed organisation; or
 - the proposed speaker will use the event to support, or to further the activities of, a proscribed organisation.

In addition to the legal obligations placed on the College, security arrangements may need to be in place (sometimes involving police); there may be a risk of demonstration; the Governing Body may wish to extend some form of hospitality to the visitor.

¹ Under the Terrorism Act 2000, the Home Secretary may proscribe an organisation if she/he believes it is concerned in terrorism. For the purposes of the Act, this means that the organisation:

- (a) commits or participates in acts of terrorism
- (b) prepares for terrorism
- (c) promotes or encourages terrorism (including the unlawful glorification of terrorism) or is otherwise concerned in terrorism.