

Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology
[Digital University Kerala]

Student Conduct Rules,2026

1. Short Title and Commencement:-These rules shall be known as Digital University Student Conduct Rules,2026. It shall come into force with effect from the Academic year 2026 after clearance by the Board of Governors of the University.
2. Purpose:- These rules are framed for maintaining and enforcing good conduct inside the class rooms and university campus.
3. Applicability:-These rules shall be applicable to all students and research scholars pursuing a course of study,training and research in the university.
4. Definitions:-
 - (i) Act:- means The Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology Act,2021.
 - (ii) Academic Misconduct:- means violations occurring in coursework, examinations, assignments, presentations, or PG-level dissertation submissions. It includes, but is not limited to:
 - (a) Plagiarism in assignments or project reports.
 - (b) Cheating during examinations.
 - (c) Unauthorised collaboration.
 - (d) Fabrication of coursework data.
 - (e) Misrepresentation of attendance or submissions
 - (iii) Board of Governors:- means the Board of Governors of the University as defined in the section 18 of The Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology Act,2021.
 - (iv) Political activity:- means any act,activity or conduct by any student in the university by which political ideologies of any political parties are preached, professed, imparted or disseminated by speeches,visible representation or other means of communication, whasoever.
 - (v) Research Misconduct:- means serious violations in the conduct of research, particularly in Postgraduate dissertations, funded research projects, and all PhD theses. It includes:

- (a) Fabrication of research data.
- (b) Falsification or manipulation of results.
- (c) Plagiarism beyond acceptable thresholds.
- (d) Suppression of contradictory data.
- (e) Unethical authorship practices.
- (f) Violation of approved research protocols.
- (g) Breach of confidentiality or data protection norms.

- (vi) Registrar:- means the Registrar of Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology.
- (vii) Student:- means any full-time or part-time student as defined in section 2(v) of the University Act.
- (viii) University:- means Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology as defined in section 2(x) of the University Act.
- (ix) Vice Chancellor:- means the Vice Chancellor of Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology.

5. Ethical Conduct and Academic Citizenship:-

All students shall adhere to the highest standards of academic ethics, research integrity, professional responsibility, and respect for diversity. Ethical conduct includes honesty in scholarship, respect for intellectual property, fairness in collaboration, and accountability in representation.

Students shall not engage in fraudulent behaviour, misrepresentation of credentials, improper authorship claims, coercion, exploitation, or misuse of institutional authority or influence.

6. Anti-Ragging Policy:-

The University adopts a zero-tolerance policy towards ragging in accordance with UGC (Curbing the Menace of Ragging) Regulations. Ragging includes any conduct causing physical, psychological, or emotional harm, humiliation, harassment, or intimidation of another student.

Any student found guilty of ragging shall face strict disciplinary action and liable for punishments under the provisions of this Rules.

7. Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH):-

The University shall implement the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. All complaints shall be addressed through the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC).

Sexual harassment includes unwelcome physical contact, advances, sexually coloured remarks, demands for sexual favours, or any conduct creating a hostile academic environment.

In case of any violations, University may initiate disciplinary proceedings independent of criminal prosecution

8. Anti-Drugs and Substance Abuse Policy:-

Possession, consumption, distribution, or facilitation of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, or alcohol in violation of law is strictly prohibited on campus and in University-sponsored activities.

In case of any violations, University may initiate disciplinary proceedings independent of criminal prosecution.

9. Prohibition of Caste-Based Discrimination (SC/ST Protection):-

The University maintains zero tolerance towards caste-based discrimination, harassment, exclusion, humiliation, or social boycott in any form.

Any act targeting individuals based on Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) identity shall be treated as a grave offence and may be reported under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

The University shall maintain an SC/ST Grievance Redressal Mechanism to address complaints promptly and confidentially.

Retaliation against complainants or witnesses in discrimination cases shall constitute independent misconduct.

10. Campus Discipline and Student Behaviour:-

All students shall maintain conduct consistent with academic dignity, institutional integrity, and public order. Students shall not engage in disorderly behaviour, vandalism, intimidation, defamation, obstruction of academic functions, or disruption of classes, laboratories, research activities, seminars, or official events.

Acts that threaten safety, institutional property, digital infrastructure, or the reputation of the University shall constitute disciplinary violations.

11. Prohibition on Political Activity inside the campus:-

- (i) No student of the university shall get himself involved in any political activity by himself or abet the said activity to be carried on by fellow students inside the campus in any manner.
- (ii) Taking part in political activity by organizing students or to cause gathering inside the campus for the purpose of doing political activity defined in Rule 4 (iv) above shall constitute serious indiscipline and shall attract disciplinary action against the students who indulge in the aforesaid activities
- (iii) Call for strike and appeal to strike based on ideologies of political parties , engage in Dharna, Gherao, Slogan shouting, causing obstruction to entry to and from any class rooms or office rooms, causing disruption of classes, causing disturbance to the ordinary functioning of the university, causing damages to university properties etc shall constitute gross indiscipline and shall attract disciplinary action and appropriate punishments as provided in these rules.

12. Digital and Cyber Conduct:-

Students shall maintain the highest standards of integrity and responsibility in the use of the University's digital infrastructure, online platforms, and communication systems.

Unauthorised access to University servers, databases, examination systems, research repositories, email systems, laboratory networks, or any institutional digital infrastructure is strictly prohibited.

The following actions constitute serious misconduct and shall attract disciplinary action

- (a) Attempted or successful hacking of institutional systems.
- (b) Password theft, credential sharing, phishing, or identity impersonation.
- (c) Malware injection, ransomware attacks, denial-of-service attacks, or digital sabotage.
- (d) Data manipulation, grade tampering, or unauthorised alteration of academic records.
- (e) Unauthorised scraping, copying, extraction, or distribution of research or institutional data.

- (f) Cyber harassment, online abuse, dissemination of defamatory, obscene, or unlawful content.
- (g) Misuse of institutional email or digital communication platforms.
- (h) Use of AI tools for impersonation, deepfake generation, or fraudulent academic submissions.

Digital forensic evidence, server logs, metadata, and other electronic records may be relied upon in disciplinary proceedings.

13. Mandatory AI/LLM Disclosure Requirement for Thesis Submissions:-

All Postgraduate dissertations and Doctoral theses shall include a signed declaration disclosing the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Large Language Models (LLMs), or generative AI tools in the preparation of the manuscript.

The declaration shall specify:

- (a) The name and version of the AI tool.
- (b) The nature of assistance received, including whether AI tools were used for language editing, formatting, coding assistance, or data analysis.
- (c) Extent of usage.
- (d) Confirmation that intellectual contribution and interpretation remain solely that of the student.

AI tools shall not be used for:

- (a) Fabricating research data.
- (b) Generating falsified citations.
- (c) Producing literature reviews without verification.
- (d) Writing substantial intellectual sections without attribution.
- (e) Impersonation, deepfake generation, or academic fraud.

Supervisors shall certify compliance prior to final submission.

Failure to disclose AI usage, misrepresentation of the extent of use, or violation of the above restrictions shall constitute concealment and may attract proceedings under the provisions relating to Academic Misconduct or Research Misconduct, as applicable.

In view of rapid technological developments, this provision shall be reviewed annually by the Academic Council to ensure continued regulatory relevance, technological responsiveness, and alignment with applicable national academic integrity standards and statutory guidelines.

14. Hostel Life and Residential Conduct:-

Hostel residents shall comply with hostel regulations, safety norms, visitor policies, and quiet-hour requirements. Damage to hostel property, unauthorised occupancy, unsafe electrical modifications, possession of prohibited materials, or conduct affecting co-residents' safety shall attract disciplinary action.

15. Imposition of punishment:-

- (i) The Registrar shall be disciplinary authority in respect of students in the university.
- (ii) If, it comes to the notice of the Registrar that a student or a class of students have committed any misconduct including academic and research misconduct as referred to in these rules and if he is satisfied that there is prima facie the student (s) have committed the misconduct, he shall place the student(s) under suspension from the university pending enquiry by the Enquiry Committee/ Enquiry Officer constituted/ appointed for this purpose.
- (iii) Based on the report of the Enquiry Committee/ Officer and the nature of the misconduct the Registrar shall impose any of the following penalties/punishments.
 - (a) Cancellation of admission
 - (b) Imposition of fine
 - (c) Withholding of scholarships
 - (d) Withholding of results
 - (e) Issue of compulsory Transfer Certificate
 - (f) Expulsion from the university
 - (g) Reporting to Law enforcing authorities for initiating prosecution under the provisions of penal laws or Prevention of Damage to Public Properties Act,1984, Information Technology Act,2000 so far as in force and as amended from time to time.
 - (h) Initiating RR proceedings in the event of non-payment of fine imposed
 - (i) Cancellation of registration to a course of study, research program or withdrawal of the degree in the case of Academic and research misconduct, subject to statutory procedure.

16. Miscellaneous Provisions:-

(i). Grievance Redressal and Whistleblower Protection

Students may approach the Grievance Redressal Committee for non-academic grievances. Whistleblowers acting in good faith shall be protected from retaliation.

(ii). Conflict of Interest and Professional Conduct

Students engaged in consultancy, internships, industry collaboration, or external engagements shall disclose potential conflicts of interest that may affect academic objectivity or institutional integrity.

(iii). Procedural Safeguards (Natural Justice)

(iv). No penalty shall be imposed without:

- (a) Written notice of allegations.
- (b) Access to relevant evidence.
- (c) Reasonable opportunity to respond.
- (d) Speaking order with recorded reasons.

Emergency interim measures may be imposed where academic integrity is at immediate risk.

17. Students' Grievance Redressal Committee:-

There shall be a Students' Grievance Redressal Committee in the university duly constituted by the Vice Chancellor. The Committee shall look in to the grievances filed by the students and shall make suitable decisions in accordance with Rules framed under the provisions contained in the Act, Statutes and Bye-laws. The Committee shall have power to condone delay ,if any in filing appeals on genuine grounds. All disciplinary actions shall be guided by principles of proportionality, procedural fairness, natural justice, and reasoned decision-making.

18. Right to Appeal:-A student against whom disciplinary action is taken has the right to prefer appeal against the impugned order before the Students' Grievance Redressal Committee within a period of 30 days from the date of passing orders on the disciplinary action.
