

# **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND RIGHTS**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Fenerbahçe University (FBU) academic student life policy has been created to guide student behavior, as FBU recognizes its students as members of the University's academic community. Fenerbahçe University embraces the goal of becoming a center of academic excellence. In this context, FBU sees it as its duty and responsibility to work diligently to provide students with opportunities both inside and outside the university to learn, conduct research through free inquiry, guarantee the teaching rights of its academic staff, protect their intellectual and academic freedom, and promote the production and development of academic knowledge in such an environment.

The FBU community is multicultural by nature and academically inclusive. With this understanding, the “Student Code of Conduct and Rights” requires each member to show effort, share, belong, and take responsibility for realizing the University’s vision and mission. Each student is expected to respect the goals of the University and diverse opinions within the community. Every student is expected to behave in accordance with the rules, which apply to behavior both inside and outside the University.

The University aims to provide a multifaceted and inspiring living and working environment for the FBU community through an academically ambitious, encouraging, and rewarding approach. In this context, the 'Student Code of Conduct and Rights' has been established for all registered FBU students to ensure they experience such an environment.

It should be noted that additional rules and practices may be introduced or changed during the academic year. Any such changes will be published on the website as a written notification.

## **1. ETHICAL STATEMENT AND RESPECT**

The University's aim is to support its students in developing and internalizing appropriate verbal and non-verbal behaviors while fostering individual and collective academic growth in a non-hierarchical, multicultural, and inclusive living and working environment.

To this end, students should respect the national, religious, ethnic, gender, and cultural diversity within the academic community. In the FBU living and working environment, students are expected to show kindness and respect toward their peers, academic and administrative staff, and cooperate in all circumstances. Additionally, it is essential for students to refrain from psychological, physical, verbal, or any other forms of violence in their interactions both within and outside the University.

## **2. BEING A PART OF THE FBU COMMUNITY**

FBU students recognize and accept that, in the broadest sense, they are part of the University community, which includes its stakeholders. Within this scope, students comply with all ethical, legal, and administrative rules and decisions of the University. Students are expected to uphold these rules and decisions through both their verbal and non-verbal behaviors.

## **3. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **3.1 Student Responsibilities**

The aim of the University is to support the development of students' competencies (knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors) and contribute to their individual and collective learning experiences and knowledge production. With this understanding, the University recognizes its students as active participants and stakeholders in the academic community. It is essential to adhere to the University's teaching and learning philosophy throughout the

knowledge acquisition process and the comprehensive development of both academics and students within the community. Within a broad framework of interest and intellectual curiosity, FBU students should demonstrate open-minded cognitive behaviors in their individual and collective learning experiences as they use existing resources and contribute to the production of knowledge.

Students are expected to take an active role in seizing the learning opportunities offered by the University, acting as autonomous learners, working both individually and collaboratively, and developing their competencies in related areas. FBU students pursue their academic growth by engaging in diverse learning and research opportunities, while integrating their findings with critical thinking and reflective questioning. Throughout this process, it is essential for students to both give and receive feedback from peers and academic staff. These feedback exchanges require FBU students to think critically and clearly express their thoughts, perceptions, understandings, and behaviors.

### **3.2 Classroom Rights**

Students receive a course syllabus from the instructor, providing information on learning outcomes, course materials, attendance and other requirements, exam dates, and assessment and grading criteria. The University also maintains an up-to-date Academic Information Package on its website, which includes learning outcomes and other essential details for all programs and courses, and makes this information publicly accessible.

Students have the right to express their views on the academic content of a course freely and respectfully, even when they disagree with the instructor, without fear of academic penalty. Academic staff and administrators must respect students' privacy rights regarding course and performance evaluations. Accordingly, information such as letter grades and exam scores is announced exclusively through the Student Affairs System (OIS), ensuring that student identities remain confidential.

### **3.3 Confidentiality of Student Registration Information and Personal Data**

The University keeps confidential all personal information that students share with academic and administrative units. Information provided to services such as the Psychological Counseling and Guidance Center (PDR) and the Health Center must also be treated with strict confidentiality. The University is obligated to exercise the highest level of care in safeguarding personal data collected during registration and admission processes. It is important that all personal data is processed and stored in accordance with the Personal Data Protection Law No. 6698.

### **3.4 Equal Access**

Students have the right to access all services, opportunities, and facilities of the University without discrimination based on race, nationality, religion, sect, language, gender, class, profession, family identity, or any other status, in accordance with the principle of equality in the Turkish Constitution.

### **3.5 Reporting Issues and Receiving Feedback**

Students have the right to freely express any problems they encounter at the University without fear of repercussion. They are also entitled to receive timely feedback from both academic and administrative units.

### **3.6 Transparency in Disciplinary Investigation Processes**

In the disciplinary investigation and punishment process, no discrimination is made between students, and the provisions under the Higher Education Law No. 2547 are applied.

### **3.7 Freedom of Expression**

Students may freely express their views and opinions without calls for violence or insults, provided that the rights of others are respected.

### **3.8 Campus Life**

Students have the right to work and live in a healthy, clean, hygienic, and aesthetic environment that supports academic, cultural, and social development.

### **3.9 Reading Emails**

Administrative and academic units send emails to students with important information related to their academic life. When these emails are sent, it is assumed that students have read and understood the content. It is the student's responsibility to regularly check their email accounts and read the emails, in accordance with Article 37, Clause 1 of the Fenerbahçe University Associate and Undergraduate Education and Training Regulations.

## **4. CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **4.1 Classroom Code of Conduct**

Students are expected to adhere to the classroom code of conduct and avoid any behavior deemed unacceptable during classes. Activities to be avoided in the classroom include, but are not limited to:

- Students talking among themselves without permission from the instructor.
- Using cell phones or other electronic devices without instructor approval. (All cell phones must be turned off before entering the classroom. If an important call is expected, the phone should be set to silent mode, and the instructor should be informed.)
- Using a laptop for activities unrelated to the lesson.
- Arriving late or leaving early without prior permission from the instructor. (If leaving early is necessary, it should be done in a manner that minimizes disruption.)
- Reading material unrelated to the lesson. (e.g., magazines, newspapers, novels, etc.)
- Working on personal activities or tasks for other lessons.
- Interrupting the instructor or other students.
- Littering in the classroom.

Failure to adhere to the Classroom Code of Conduct may result in suspension and disciplinary action.

### **4.2. Cheating**

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying from a classmate or another person during an exam or while preparing materials for academic evaluation, receiving or providing assistance, or sharing written or verbal answers to questions with others.

### **4.3 Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Students may suffer major and irreparable losses in their academic development and career journeys due to dishonest academic behavior, even when such actions are considered "innocent little mistakes." The University does not tolerate cheating (e.g., fabricating or providing incorrect or incomplete references or information in academic work), plagiarism (using someone else's words, ideas, or work and presenting them as one's own without proper citation), or any form of academic dishonesty.

The University expects its students to uphold academic integrity and responsibility in all tasks and activities, such as presentations, thesis writing, group work, academic speeches, and similar efforts. FBU students may only lend their names to collaborative work if they have made a significant contribution. In this context, students are required to always acknowledge the contributions of other students, lecturers, scholars, and experts by name.

### **4.4 Privacy Ethics**

FBU's privacy ethics ensure the protection of both the student and academic community against information withholding, breaches of confidentiality, and the inappropriate or embarrassing disclosure of personal data. In this context, FBU students are considered to have agreed in advance to respect all forms of privacy concerning their peers, as well as academic and administrative staff, both within and outside the University.

### **4.5 Information Communication Technology, Cell Phone, Camera, and Social Media Usage**

FBU students are required to comply with University rules regarding the appropriate and acceptable use of information and communication technology services, as well as all relevant legal regulations at every level. Students agree, without reservation, to use social media in an informed and responsible manner. Copying intellectual property is strictly prohibited.

Students must always respect the intellectual efforts of academic staff, including lecture notes, recordings, and similar materials related to their courses and academic work. They must not engage in or accept the copying, sharing, transferring, or other unauthorized use of such materials. It is forbidden for students, academic, or administrative staff to post any pictures, insert emojis, or content related to another person's identity or personality in any context and especially on social media regardless of intent, even in seemingly innocent situations.

Students are expected to respect the privacy of all University members. Taking unauthorized photographs or video recordings in areas where individuals have a reasonable expectation of privacy is unacceptable. Possessing, displaying, or distributing such unauthorized content is considered a serious violation of the Code of Conduct.

### **4.6 Harassment**

In the event of a complaint, the relevant provisions of the Student Discipline Regulation of Higher Education Institutions are applied to students who engage in any form of harassing attitudes, behaviors, or actions. Students who are the subject of complaints and those who have been subjected to harassment are referred to the Psychological Counseling and Guidance (PDR) Unit and are provided with follow-up support.

#### **4.7 Mental and Physical Harm**

Mental and physical harm includes all forms of verbal and non-verbal abuse, threats, detention, and any behavior or action that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of another person. However, mental and physical harm is not limited to these examples.

Students are prohibited from engaging in any behavior or action intended to cause mental or physical harm. Additionally, students are not allowed to possess weapons, including firearms (whether legally licensed or not), compressed air weapons, illegal knives, hazardous chemicals, or explosives of any kind (including fireworks).

#### **4.8 Theft and Property Violations**

Damage to, theft of, looting, or fraudulent use of University property or the property of others, both inside and outside the University, is considered an unforgivable violation. Possession of stolen property, when the student knows or reasonably should know it is stolen, is also considered a violation.

#### **4.9 Other Forms of Dishonesty**

Providing false information or deliberately misrepresenting facts to the University constitutes a violation of the Code of Conduct and falls under other forms of dishonesty. This includes, but is not limited to, falsifying records, altering or fabricating documents, making false statements (whether written or verbal), or providing false information during university proceedings or to any administrator or official of the University. Additionally, using or allowing others to use student ID cards fraudulently is also prohibited.

#### **4.10 Alcohol and Drug Use**

Students are prohibited from using, possessing, or facilitating the use of alcoholic beverages or drugs, both inside and outside the University. Public drunkenness and/or acting under the influence of alcohol is also prohibited. Attempting to possess, use, sell, or distribute any illegal substance is considered an unforgivable violation.

#### **4.11 Smoking**

Smoking is prohibited inside and outside campus buildings, except in designated smoking areas.

#### **4.12 Gambling**

Organizing, conducting, or participating in any form of gambling is prohibited.

#### **4.13 Parking**

Students must comply with the parking regulations established by the University.

### **5. APPLICATION**

Students agree in advance to comply with the rules of conduct and accept the potential consequences of non-compliance. In this context, the provisions of the Higher Education Institution Student Discipline Regulation, FBU regulations, and other relevant legislation serve as the basis.

### **6. EFFECTIVE DATE AND AMENDMENT**

The Fenerbahçe University Student Code of Conduct and Rights takes effect at the start of the 2020-2021 Academic Year. The University reserves the right to unilaterally amend the "Student Code of Conduct and Rights" Any amendments to the Code will be announced separately.