



Writtle
University
College

Statement on the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance' working definition on anti-Semitism

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The University College's Academic Board has reviewed the [IHRA's working definition on anti-Semitism](#).

The University College is committed to being an inclusive community, which cherishes diversity. We seek to create a community where hate, harassment and discrimination are never tolerated. Condemning anti-Semitism and tackling any anti-Semitic incidents is very much part of this commitment. Our new strategic plan commits us to become a more inclusive education community and with our students, staff and Board of Governors we are working to develop implementation plans that will further embed inclusion in our staff and student processes.

Following discussions at our Academic Board, we have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition on anti-Semitism as a reference point in the development of our staff and student processes. We have also taken the opportunity, as part of our commitment to protect freedom of speech, to acknowledge that it is not anti-Semitic to criticise the Government of Israel and its policies or actions in itself, a clarification other university sector institutions have made and as recommended by the Home Affairs Select Committee in 2016. In adopting the IHRA definition our goal is to provide reassurance to all Jewish members of our University College community, while safeguarding the space for the free exchange of ideas in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

For the new academic year 2021-22, we are strengthening our work on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, with a revised oversight committee and working groups on accessibility and inclusion. Our new people strategy will endeavour to ensure we also increase the diversity of our staff body.