

Approved by Executive Board on 14 March 2023 (Corsa: cvb23.0049)

A large number of Maastricht University employees and students is actively involved in various societal developments. This is in line with the values and principles of our academic community. Naturally, everyone is free to express their involvement by participating in public debates and raising awareness about relevant issues. Sometimes, this may result in organizing meetings and, on occasion, in protest demonstrations on the premises of Maastricht University. While the university aims to create an inclusive environment that allows for such activities, it also places a significant emphasis on upholding its commitments to education and research and ensuring that every student and staff member feels welcomed and secure within our buildings, regardless of whether they participate in a gathering or demonstration or not. The General House Rules and Regulations of Maastricht University formally outline the specific behaviors that are allowed and prohibited.

Below, these rules are explained, and examples are provided for clarification purposes. The examples listed below are merely illustrative and do not constitute an exhaustive list of prohibited behaviors. If there is any doubt about whether a certain conduct is allowed, you can contact the caretaker of the respective building or premises.

- **Refrain from causing any harm or damage to the premises, buildings, facilities, belongings and its users.** For instance, protest demonstrators are prohibited from defacing walls or placing pamphlets in unauthorized locations. However, damage also includes the failure to leave the area where the protest demonstration took place in a clean and orderly condition. In case of damage, in addition to any other measures, the individuals responsible for the damage will be held liable, and the costs will be recovered from them.
- **Avoid causing inconvenience to other users of UM buildings and premises.** This means, among other things, that entrances and exits, including escape routes, of buildings and premises may not be blocked by protest demonstrators. Users of UM buildings and premises, including emergency and rescue services, must have unrestricted access at all times. Disrupting exams, education, promotions, or inaugural lectures is also prohibited. This also means that the protest demonstration on the UM premises or in the buildings must end at the closing time of the respective premises and/or building.
- **Refrain from infringing upon the rights of users of UM buildings and premises.** For example, the right to privacy must be respected, and individuals who do not wish to be recognizable (e.g., on social media) should not be depicted. Other examples of rights infringements include obstructing individuals casting their votes during an election or forcibly detaining users of UM buildings against their will.
- **Comply with legal regulations and/or UM policies.** This means, among other things, that (incitement to) the use of violence in any form, before, during, or after a protest demonstration, is strictly prohibited. This also applies to the use of weapons as well as the use of other items as weapons (e.g., PVC pipes as makeshift weapons). Arson or attempted arson is prohibited. The UM will report any criminal offenses to the police, in addition to any other measures it may take.

Instructions may be issued to protest demonstrators by or on behalf of the Executive Board, to, for instance, ensure the correct operation of the university, the primary processes, and/or the safety of individuals involved. Protest demonstrators are required to immediately comply with these instructions. Failure to do so may result in the complete or partial denial of access to UM buildings and premises for the relevant protest demonstrators, with immediate effect.