

Code of conduct for students

Approved by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

This code of conduct applies to all students enrolled or present at the faculty of veterinary medicine of Ghent University, also during externships or other activities outside of the faculty.

1. The students are subjected to and follow the overall stipulations of Ghent University as described in the Education and Examination Code during all educational activities.
2. The students are aware of and follow all internal regulations of the faculty (e.g. lab rules, clinic rules, parking guidelines,...) during educational activities, including this code of conduct for students.
3. The students are in possession of adequate material, clothing and personal protective equipment necessary to follow the lessons, practicals and clinics.
4. The students are expected to present themselves at all times in a professional and high quality manner, concerning etiquette, clothing as well as hygiene. The current rules concerning clothing and hygiene should especially be followed during practicals and clinical activities, as described in the specific practical and clinic rules and the faculty script on Safety of students and personnel.
5. The infrastructure of the faculty and the university is handled with care. All students are expected to help keeping the campus clean, e.g. by selectively disposing of garbage. Damaging of buildings or material by injudicious use or neglect, vandalism or applying graffiti can cause sanctions. In context of durability it is wise to use energy in sparingly manner, e.g. by turning off lights in unused rooms and closing doors and windows.
6. The students act in relation to one another, faculty members, clients and by extension during all social contact in a honest, respectful and responsible manner. Especially and in particular during collective learning and teaching situations should all disruptive, respect-less or asocial behaviour be avoided.

7. As member of a pluralistic university with great attention for diversity, students should respect alternative viewpoints and other cultures and be aware not to use words or actions which may offend, discriminate or harm the image of the university and faculty.

8. The faculty attaches great importance to rules of privacy, discretion and secrecy within the faculty as well as to its clients. The distribution or exposure of information or audio-visual material of patients and clients to third parties is strongly prohibited. Audio-visual registration without consent during educational activities is prohibited by the Education and Examination Code. It is advised to be carefully when using social media: information or audio-visual registrations of activities during the education can be perceived by outsiders as inappropriate or shocking. Every student can be held responsible for the consequences connected to the distribution of education related content to the general public.

9. The students should in no circumstance engage in deceitful or unfair practices, be it within or outside the campus. Forgery of other forms of fraud or theft or misuse of medication for example are under no circumstance tolerated.

10. The students ensure that during their presence on campus or during externship or other education related activities they are not under the influence of drugs, medication or alcohol or other products that interfere with mental or physical bodily functions.

11. The students make sure that when handling animals they don't act in a way that can be perceived as animal cruelty or acts against animal welfare. When in contact with laboratory or educational animals during the education they will only perform actions which comply with the protocols and guidelines of the ethical committee and the Federal public service animal welfare

12. The students commit themselves when taking clinical and educational courses during daytime as well as at night and during weekends and holidays, according to the allocation system, to help with the care of the animals at the faculty and the functioning of the faculty animal clinics.

13. The students are aware of and follow the overall principles of the ethical guidelines as stipulated in the Code of ethics by the order of Veterinarians, with special attention for the unauthorized practice of veterinary medicine or presenting them self publicly as a graduated veterinarian.

14. Not complying with the rules stipulated in the abovementioned code of conduct may lead to being convened by the Committee of Code of Conduct of the faculty. This committee consists of the dean, the director of education, the teacher of law and ethics, the chair of the faculty committee of scientific research, the chair of the ethical committee and a student representative. Verifiable breaches of the code of conduct for students can be presented to the dean. The committee of code of conduct of the faculty will decide within 14 working days whether the complaint is receptive and whether the student involved should be heard. When the facts are proven, the disciplinary regulations at the university for students may be applied and the complete file can be transferred to the rector.