



BLANTYRE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

BIU CODE OF ETHICS POLICY

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1.0 Code statement

Blantyre International University (BIU) is committed to continually strengthening its ethical culture. We will perform our jobs and conduct teaching business in an ethical and compliant manner. All University personnel have a shared responsibility to the University, to the students we serve, to our community and to each other. All Directors, Academic staff, Non-Academic staff and Students shall act with honesty, integrity, and openness in all their dealings with BIU. BIU maintains an environment that values integrity, fairness and respect.

2.0 Why code of ethics at BIU?

This Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards (“Code”) is a tool to help BIU stakeholders comply with legal and regulatory requirements and with University policies and procedures. The Code is designed to help staff and students make ethical choices when and if faced with a difficult decision or situation. In each case codes carry general obligations and admonitions. They often capture a vision of excellence, of what individuals and societies should be striving for and what they can achieve. This code of ethics acts as a guiding light for BIU, enabling its members and students make morally sound decisions and deal with situations without prejudice to core ethical values of integrity, trustworthiness, fairness, courtesy, respect and tolerance.

3.0 Applicability of the Code

This Code applies to all BIU personnel. For the purpose of this Code, personnel includes, but not limited to faculty, staff, students, and individuals hired or contracted to perform a function that is generally associated with an employment relationship among others..

4.0 Code of Conduct for Academic Staff

- 4.1 An academic staff shall teach his/her courses at scheduled times, in depth. Teaching and research in the various disciplines shall be of high standards.
- 4.2 An academic staff shall constantly improve his knowledge in his areas of expertise.
- 4.3 An academic staff shall not relate to his/her students in a way that could compromise or be seen to have compromised his/her position as a teacher, examiner and guardian.
- 4.4 An academic staff shall not favour any student by disclosing examinations questions before the scheduled time for such examinations or by awarding unearned grades or by acting in any other manner inconsistent with his/her status as a University Examiner.
- 4.5 An academic staff shall not plagiarise work or works of other authors.
- 4.6 An academic staff shall attend official meetings regularly and promptly.
- 4.7 The Vice-Chancellor, Deans, Heads of Departments, Directors and other constituted bodies shall promptly investigate any breach of this Code that is reported to them in writing. Such officers and bodies shall take decisions commensurate with their level of authority or refer the matter to such a person or body that has authority to act on the matter. Where a member of staff has been



charged with an offence before a competent Court of Law or judicial Tribunal, he/she shall be interdicted from service forthwith, and shall be put on half pay until the final determination of the matter. If at the end of the trial he/she is acquitted, he/she shall be entitled to the balance of his/her pay.

4.8 An academic staff shall not disclose the contents of a confidential document or official information without proper authority.

4.9 **Sanctions**

4.9.1 The Code of Conduct shall be binding on all academic staff and where there is need for sanctions, recourse shall be made to the existing statutes, ordinances, regulations and rules as appropriate.

5.0 Code of Conduct for Non-academic Staff

5.1 A non-academic staff shall not disclose the contents of a confidential document or official information without proper authority.

5.2 A non-academic staff shall not delay official work, official correspondence or any official duty.

5.3 Any official work shall be meticulously carried out to the satisfaction of the University. Any official minutes, notes, correspondence, or such other relevant document shall be properly written to truly reflect the decisions.

5.4 Prompt and courteous attention should be the hall-mark of a University staff.

5.5 **Sanctions**

5.5.1 The Code of Conduct shall be binding on all non-academic staff and where there is need for sanctions, recourse shall be made to the existing statutes, ordinances, regulations and rules as appropriate.

6.0 Code of Conduct for all Staff

6.1 A member of staff shall not be a member of, or belong to, or take part in any society the membership of which is incompatible with the functions or dignity of his/her office.

6.2 Staff members shall at all times conduct themselves in a manner befitting the service of the University. Any harmful or scandalous activity considered constituting serious misconduct in the eyes of the University, appropriate action shall be taken by the Vice Chancellor or Chancellor or Board to remedy the situation.

6.3 All staff shall give adequate notice to the appropriate officer of the University and obtain prior approval before travelling out of the University or before extending their approved leave either in Malawi or overseas.

6.4 A staff member shall not accept, obtain, or cause any person to accept, or attempt to obtain from any persons, for himself/herself or for any other person, any gift or consideration as an inducement or reward for doing or forbearing to do any

act in relation to University affairs or business or for showing or forbearing to show favour or dis-favour in matters relating to the University.

- 6.5 It shall be the duty of every member of staff to keep and preserve any University property entrusted to him/her with due care and diligence. If the University sustains a loss by reason of neglect or default of a member of staff, he/she shall, as far as practicable, be liable to make good the loss or damage. The assessment of what is payable shall be determined by the University but this shall be without prejudice to the recommendation of any Commission of Enquiry that may be instituted by the University.
- 6.6 Any sum of money due to such a member of staff from the University may be withheld in partial or full satisfaction of such a loss or damage;
- 6.7 Where a *prima facie* case of breach of any of these code of conduct has been made against a member of staff, such staff member shall not be granted leave, study leave or any other leave whatsoever, until the case has been disposed of. Such a case shall normally be concluded within three months or at such a reasonable period of time thereafter as may be decided by the Vice-Chancellor;
- 6.8 Children and wards of staff shall keep to the laws of the land and all University regulations.
- 6.9 Notwithstanding the above, all staff shall be directly responsible for their personal conduct to acceptable standards in society.
- 6.10 In addition, the ethics code focuses on the following:
 - 6.10.1 Creating a Respectful Campus Environment without discrimination based on race, colour, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, citizenship status, HIV and Aids status and genetic information.
 - 6.10.2 *Protecting University Assets and Appropriate Use of University Resources:* We all have a responsibility to make sure that University resources are not wasted or used inappropriately. Stealing, committing fraud, bribing, and providing kickbacks are all examples of inappropriate use of University resources and are all violations of the law, University policy and this Code. We must all do our part to protect University resources..
 - 6.10.3 *Freedom of Expression:* While our mission is dedicated to free expression and facilitation of the exchange of ideas, we need to balance that with our need to ensure that University endorsement is not improperly attributed and that University resources and facilities are used in a manner consistent with policy and campus safety.
 - 6.10.4 *Creating a Safe and Healthy Campus:* A safe and healthy campus refers to both environmental safety (i.e., buildings, grounds) and personal safety. When it comes to a safe and healthy campus, we



are all equally responsible for how we behave as well as how we treat others. If you ever feel unsafe or if you see or hear about unsafe conditions on campus or in your workplace, let someone know.

Sanctions

- 7.0 The Code of Conduct shall be binding on all staff and where there is need for sanctions, recourse shall be made to the existing statutes, ordinances, regulations and rules as appropriate.
- 7.1 Parents and guardians of children and wards who engage in anti-social behaviour (that is, any act that would amount to an offence under the laws of the land and such other conducts that would be a source of nuisance and inconvenience to neighbours) shall be held responsible for the actions of such children or wards.