
Unacceptable behaviour?

How can the confidential counsellor be of help?



Unacceptable behaviour is behaviour that you find such a hindrance that it has a harmful effect on your studies. You define for yourself what you regard as unacceptable. Something that is unacceptable for one individual may not be to another, but it is a problem if you experience the conduct as unacceptable.

Discrimination, bullying, (sexual) harassment, threats, stalking and gossiping, both online and offline, are all types of unacceptable behaviour. Even if very subtle, it can still have a great impact on your feeling of safety and your pleasure in studying.

Examples are

- You receive intrusive messages from a fellow student;
- A lecturer pays you more than average attention;
- You pick up sexual innuendos or jokes, or people touch you without reason, put their hands on you, or block your path;
- Your fellow students ignore you, or you are always given the most unpleasant tasks in a group assignment;
- You feel uncomfortable about being involved in gossip about a fellow student, a teacher, an counsellor or other people you are in contact with during your study;
- You feel that fellow students or other people are not taking you seriously.

It could also be the case that you have witnessed unacceptable behaviour but you don't know what you can do about it.

What can you do about it?

It is important that prompt action is taken when unacceptable conduct is observed, because it can cause stress and psychological or physical problems which can affect you privately and in your study. It might be a good idea to talk to this person about the fact that their behaviour distresses you. You can explain that you find this unacceptably offensive or even threatening. You can also ask someone you trust, a fellow student or a teacher to say this to this person. You can also contact a confidential counsellor. Please don't keep it to yourself but talk about it.

How can the confidential counsellor be of help?

Wageningen University & Research employs two confidential advisers for students. They are independent and everything you discuss with them is confidential. The confidential counsellor will take as starting point the fact that you feel impeded in your studies by the behaviour of another person. He/she will listen and think along with you and advise you on finding a solution.

A confidential counsellor can accompany you when you talk to the person who is causing the distress and can bring in an intermediary at your request. The confidential counsellor will help you to work out a strategy best suited to you and your situation. Information about how to make a formal complaint if other attempts failed can be found on the website.

Student Service Centre

How to make an appointment?

You can make an appointment with a confidential counsellor by sending an email to vpstudent@wur.nl, call or WhatsApp.

Website: [Confidential Counsellor](#)

Confidential counsellors for students

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