



House rules for protests at Leiden University

On 14 May, Universities of the Netherlands (UNL) published [guidelines for protests](#) at universities and universities of applied sciences. The document is intended as a guide for higher education institutions, some of which have recently faced protests and demonstrations. It will enable them to work with clear and familiar rules in the event of protests or demonstrations.

Academic freedom is a core value for Leiden University, and we believe creating space for different perspectives and opinions is a fundamental principle. However, we realise that at present there may be questions about organising protests on our campus. In short, there is a need for clarity.

The following list of rules on protests at Leiden University is in accordance with the UNL guidelines and is essentially an abridged version of the university's existing house rules. We hope this will make it clear to our university community what is (and is not) permitted regarding protests on our campus.

1. Leiden University expects all protests to be peaceful ones;
2. Anyone wishing to organise a protest in a university building or on any of our grounds must notify the university in advance. This means that protests and demonstrations are only permitted if advance notice has been provided;
3. As the applicant/organiser is responsible for safety and order during a protest, we always want to know in advance who this is;
4. The university wants to be able to stay in contact with the applicant/organiser before and during protests for which notice has been provided. We therefore expect this person to be available for any questions or instructions;
5. Participants in protests may be asked at any time by university security guards to provide identification in the form of their LU-Card;
6. It goes without saying that our teaching, research and operations should not be disrupted. Entrances and exits to buildings must not be obstructed;
7. Wearing face coverings (full-face helmets, balaclavas, masks, scarves, veils, etc.) is not permitted on campus. Anyone wearing one will be asked to remove it. If they do not do so, they will be asked to leave the campus;
8. Discrimination, hate speech or inciting violence is not permitted. Vandalism, occupation or the use of force will not be tolerated. Nor will setting up encampments or staying overnight in university buildings be permitted. The university will always report criminal offences such as threats, violence, vandalism or violent disorder.

If, before a protest of which the university has received advance notification, the house rules prove not to have been followed, or if no agreements can be reached with the organisers, the university will not be able to grant permission for the protest to be held.

If, during a protest, the rules prove not to have been followed, the university will proceed to de-escalation. Depending on the situation, the university will consult the local authorities (mayor, prosecutor and police) to decide which steps will result in the most fitting solution.

The university has no control over protests and demonstrations that take place outside university buildings or grounds: public order enforcement is the responsibility of the local authorities.

We hope that everyone respects these rules so that all members of our community can work and study on our campus in a safe and orderly manner.

[Full version of our house rules](#)