RMIT NEXT Community Participation Guidelines

This page outlines the guidelines for the RMIT NEXT Discussion Forum.

The heart of RMIT is our people. We put people first and do our best to recognize, appreciate and respect the diversity of our global community. RMIT NEXT welcomes and encourages contributions from everyone who shares our goals and wants to contribute to our universities next five-year strategy in a healthy and constructive manner. We rely on all members of the RMIT community to help keep these discussion forums a safe place for people to share and view information.

As such, we have adopted this code of conduct and require all those who participate to agree and adhere to these Community Participation Guidelines in order to help us create a safe and positive community experience for all.

These guidelines aim to support a community where all people should feel safe to participate, introduce new ideas and inspire others, regardless of:

- Background
- Family status
- Gender
- Gender identity or expression
- Marital status
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Native language
- Age
- Ability
- Race and/or ethnicity
- Caste
- National origin
- Socioeconomic status
- Religion
- Geographic location
- Any other dimension of diversity

Openness, collaboration and participation are core aspects of who we are as a university. We gain strength from diversity and actively seek participation from those who enhance it. These guidelines exist to enable diverse individuals and groups to interact and collaborate to mutual advantage. This document outlines both expected and prohibited behavior.

By contributing to the discussion forum, you agree to follow the guidelines and understand that should any posts breach these, it will be removed immediately. If you see these rules being broken, please remind others of them, and in case of abuse, please get in touch with RMIT NEXT directly through our contact form.

The short version
We're so glad you're here! Together, we can create great conversations in our community and help shape the future of RMIT.

- Do *politely* ask us questions and let us know what you like and don't like about a specific article or video, or the ideas we talk about in it.
- Don't be disrespectful to people, or react to disrespectful people. We'll remove bad stuff when we see it.
- Respect and help the moderators. It's a small team of dedicated, caring humans working hard to make things better.

The long version
We have developed five community values that should underpin all your interactions and help guide your posts:

Supportive
We encourage our members to give and receive support, sharing their stories and experiences.

Respectful
Appreciate that others may have an opinion different from yours. If you see abuse, report it to us using the "Report" button on the discussion posts.

Empowering
We empower our members to make decisions. Don't hold back in sharing your knowledge – it's likely someone will find it useful or interesting. When you give information, provide your sources.

Safe
We support our community to talk openly about difficult subjects in a safe manner. Remember that the forums are open to the entire RMIT Community. Don't post personal information that you would not be comfortable sharing with a stranger.

Friendly
We approach all our discussions with kindness, warmth and always assume the best intentions.
It will also be helpful if you stay on topic. When contributing to an existing discussion, try to stay 'on topic'. If something new comes up within a topic that you would like to discuss, email us and we'll create a new thread..

Behaviour that will not be tolerated
The following behaviors are considered to be unacceptable under these guidelines.

Personal Attacks
Conflicts will inevitably arise, but frustration should never turn into a personal attack. It is not okay to insult, demean or belittle others. Attacking someone for their opinions, beliefs and ideas is not acceptable. It is important to speak directly when we disagree and when we think we need to improve, but such discussions must be conducted respectfully and professionally, remaining focused on the issue at hand.

Derogatory Language
Hurtful or harmful language related to:

- Background
- Family status
- Gender
- Gender identity or expression
- Marital status
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Native language
- Age
- Ability
- Race and/or ethnicity
- Caste
- National origin
- Socioeconomic status
- Religion
- Geographic location
- Other attributes

is not acceptable. This includes deliberately referring to someone by a gender that they do not identify with, and/or questioning the legitimacy of an individual's gender identity. If you're unsure if a word is derogatory, don't use it. This also includes repeated subtle and/or indirect discrimination; when asked to stop, stop the behavior in question.

Violence and Threats of Violence
Violence and threats of violence are not acceptable - online or offline. This includes incitement of any kind of violence toward any individual; verbal, mental and physical.

Unwelcome Sexual Attention or Contact
Unwelcome sexual attention or unwelcome contact is not acceptable. This includes sexualized comments, jokes or imagery in interactions, communications or presentation materials. This includes simulated physical contact (such as emojis like "kiss") without affirmative consent and the sharing or distribution of sexualized images or text.

Influencing Unacceptable Behaviour
We will treat influencing or leading such activities the same way we treat the activities themselves, and thus the same consequences apply.

Consequences of Unacceptable Behaviour
Bad behavior from any participant on our Discussions, including those with decision-making authority, will not be tolerated.

Reports of harassment/discrimination will be promptly and thoroughly investigated by the people responsible for the safety of the forum. Appropriate measures will be taken to address the situation.

Anyone asked to stop unacceptable behavior is expected to comply immediately. Violation of these guidelines can result in you being asked to leave the forum, either temporarily or permanently.

In addition, any participants who abuse the reporting process will be considered to be in violation of these guidelines and subject to the same consequences. False reporting, especially to retaliate or exclude, will not be accepted or tolerated.

Reporting
If you believe you're experiencing unacceptable behavior that will not be tolerated as outlined above, please get in touch with RMIT NEXT directly through our contact form. After receiving a description of your situation, they will review and determine next steps.

Please also report to us if you observe a potentially dangerous situation, someone in distress, or violations of these guidelines, even if the situation is not happening to you. If you feel you have been unfairly accused of violating these guidelines, please follow the same reporting process.

We assume good faith when dealing with violations; we will only warn or ban users who repeatedly or blatantly violate the rules. Administrators have the final say in modifying, interpreting, and enforcing these rules. If you observe someone breaking a rule or behaving in a questionable fashion, do not try to deal with it yourself. Please alert the RMIT NEXT Team by clicking "Report" next to the post.

HOW TO POST AND COMMENT

There are four main ways to interact with RMIT NEXT online. Here are the basics:

- **Post a comment**
  We love comments, and simply by logging in you can comment on any discussion post on RMIT NEXT. Comments are organized into collapsable threads to make it easy to follow a conversation.

- **Complete a survey**
  Give us your feedback on a particular question in one of our surveys! We want to know what you think. We'll be hosting some surveys on key topics throughout the campaign and feeding back the insights from our community. Watch the Get Involved space for our surveys and fill them out when you've got a few minutes to spare.

- **Attend an event**
  We'll be running NEXT Forums throughout the campaign, keep an eye out on the Get Involved section of the site, come along to the events, listen to subject matter experts and take part in the live discussions.

  Can't make it? We'll be live streaming and recording all of the events, so you'll never miss a second of the action. We'll also be continuing the conversations online in Discussions.

- **Get in touch**
  Have a news tip? Want to contact the moderators? See a bug? You can do all of that right here.