



British Values

British Values are the beliefs that guide how we live and work together in a diverse, modern society. They help us become responsible, respectful, and inclusive citizens.

At the University of Greater Manchester (UGM), we believe understanding these values helps create a safe and supportive environment for everyone.

Start this tutorial by watching the short video below that outlines British Values.

Let's Discuss: Fundamental British Values



Now, move through the sections below to explore the **four fundamental British Values** in more detail and how we promote them across university.

British Value 1: Democracy



What is Democracy? —

Democracy means that the power lies with the people. If you're eligible, you have the right to vote and help shape decisions - locally and nationally. It's about:

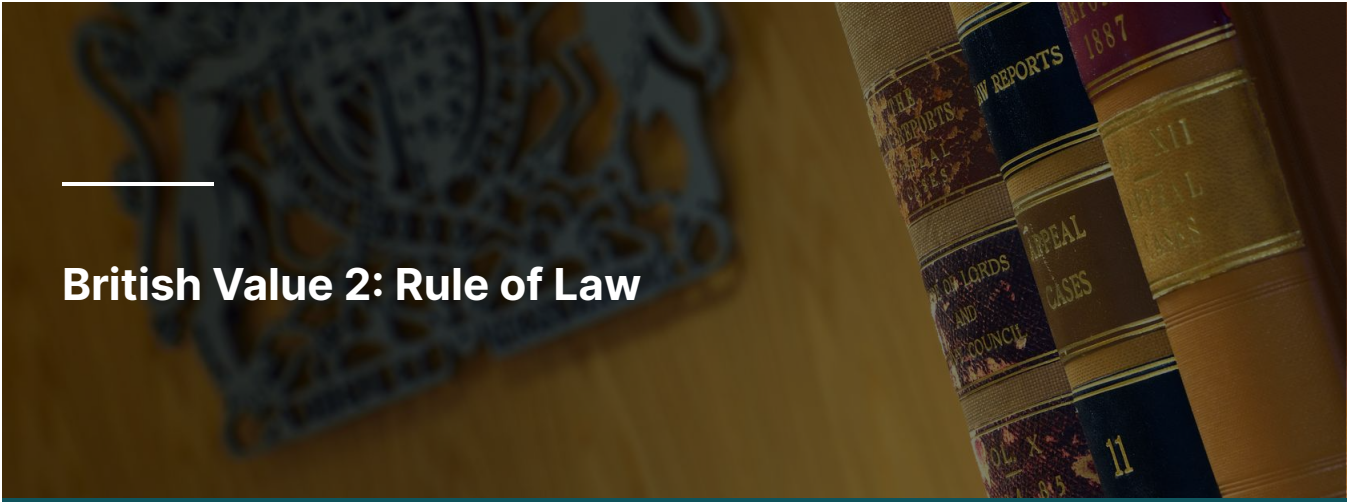
- Freedom of speech
- Equality
- Respecting others' opinions - even if they're different from yours

Democracy in Action at UGM —

At the University of Greater Manchester, we believe your voice should be heard—and we're here to listen. There are lots of ways you can share your views and help shape your university experience, including:

- Students elect a SU President and a Postgraduate Governor
- Course Reps are voted in to represent your views
- Course Rep Charter ensures your voice is taken seriously
- Freedom of speech is valued and protected
- Your opinions help shape your learning experience





British Value 2: Rule of Law

What is Rule of Law?

The rule of law keeps society fair and safe. Everyone is expected to follow the same laws - whether it's national law, university policies, or codes of conduct.

Breaking the rules has consequences, and laws are there to protect your rights.

Rule of Law in Action at UGM

At UGM, we have policies and procedures to protect your rights and academic standards. You can find them here: <https://www.bolton.ac.uk/student-policy-zone>.

Other ways we support the Rule of Law:

- The Prevent Duty helps safeguard students from radicalisation
- We work with the Community Police Team
- Students learn about fairness, justice, and democratic living

Other examples include:

- The Prevent Duty helps safeguard students from radicalisation
- We work with the Community Police Team

- Students learn about fairness, justice, and democratic living

A silhouette of a person standing on a rock with their arms outstretched, set against a sunset or sunrise sky. A pine tree is visible on the right side of the image.

British Value 3: Individual Liberty

What is Individual Liberty?

Individual liberty means having the freedom to be yourself and make your own choices. It's about living without discrimination and being able to express who you are. These freedoms are protected by law - but with freedom comes responsibility. We're all accountable for what we do (or don't do), and how our actions affect others.

Individual Liberty in Action at UGM

The university promotes the dignity and respect of our students through Dignity at Study. The university has a zero-tolerance approach towards any form of harassment, bullying, discrimination, victimisation, and sexual misconduct.

For more information read our Dignity at Study Policy within the [Student Policy Zone](#) for the current academic year.

You can also get advice on the Dignity at Study Policy and Procedure from the Life Lounge and Students' Union.

- Tel: 01204 903566
- Email: dignityatstudy@bolton.ac.uk

Students can report an incident of harassment, bullying, discrimination, victimisation or sexual misconduct where the alleged perpetrator is a student, a member of staff, a visitor or a contractor appointed by the University i.e. another member of the university community by means of an online [Students' Dignity at Study Reporting Form](#).

We also:

- Champion diversity and [Freedom of Speech](#)
- Have a strong anti-bullying culture
- Encourage self-expression and personal growth
- Support multi-faith chaplaincy for students of all beliefs.

A photograph of four diverse wooden dolls standing on a dark wooden log. From left to right: a girl with dark skin and curly hair wearing a blue and white striped shirt and pink pants; a boy with light skin and a white hooded cloak wearing a light blue tunic; a girl with dark skin and curly hair wearing an orange tunic; and a boy with light skin and blonde hair wearing a blue and white polka-dot shirt and green overalls. They are all holding hands. The background is dark and out of focus.

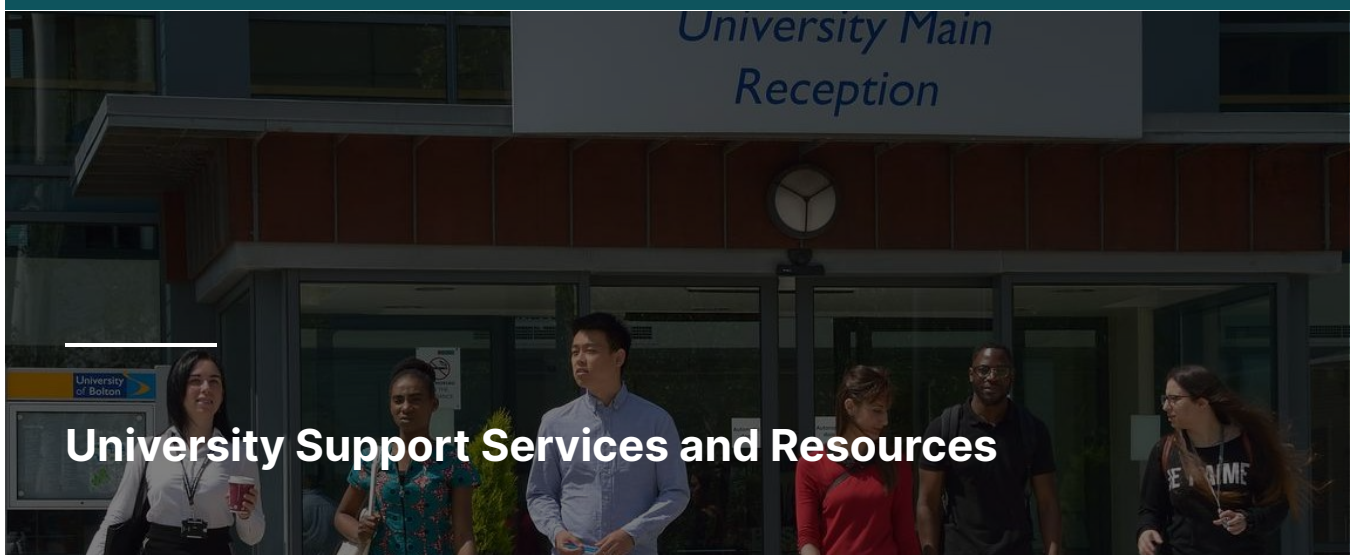
British Value 4: Mutual Respect and Tolerance

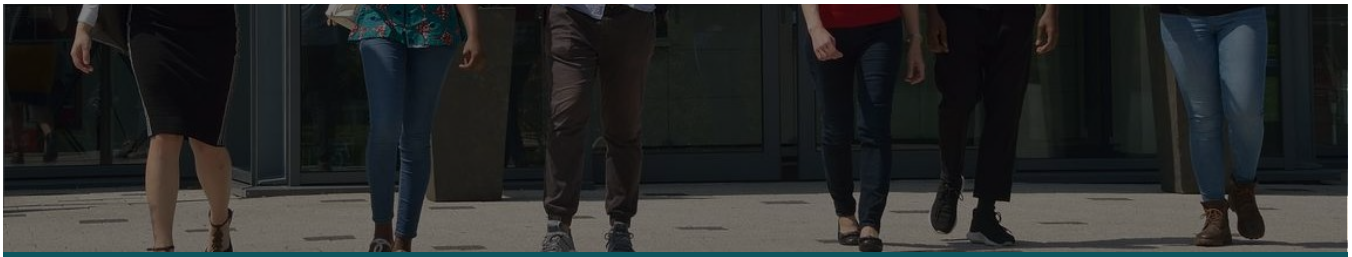
What is Mutual Respect and Tolerance? —

We live in a diverse society, and it's important to respect people from all backgrounds - whatever their faith, beliefs, or culture. Everyone deserves to have their voice heard, whether they follow a religion or not. Dismissing others because they're different isn't okay. Instead, we should celebrate diversity, challenge discrimination, and avoid stereotypes or labelling.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance in action at UGM —

- A Student Pledge developed by students, for students
- The Equality Act 2010 and our Equal Opportunities Policy
- Protected Characteristics include: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation
- Zero tolerance for discrimination or prejudice
- Celebrating different identities, faiths, and cultures
- Raising awareness of topics like young carers, gender identity, and disability





The Life Lounge —

The University's Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Service provides free, confidential mental health and wellbeing support for all current students studying at the University of Greater Manchester; including a Wellbeing Team, Mental Health Advisor Service, Counselling Service and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) Service.

For further information:

- Website: [Life Lounge](#)
- Telephone: 01024 903566
- Email: lifelounge@bolton.ac.uk
- Call in person: The Life Lounge, Chancellors Building, Eagle Tower, T2

Chaplaincy and Multi-faith Service —

The University's chaplaincy team provide free pastoral support for students and staff, irrespective of religion and belief. You do not have to be of religious faith to seek support from the chaplaincy. They provide a safe, confidential space to discuss concerns, alongside signposting advice and guidance. If needed the chaplain can put you into contact with someone of your faith.

- Chaplain: Dr Gill Smart
- Email: chaplain@bolton.ac.uk
- Telephone/Text: 07967585670

- Call in person: Chaplaincy, Chancellors Building, the bottom of Eagle Tower - Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10:00am- 1:00pm.

Dignity at Study —

The University of Bolton is firmly committed to fostering an environment of equality, respect, and inclusivity for all students. We firmly believe that every member of our community deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. The University has a zero-tolerance approach towards harassment, bullying, discrimination, victimisation, and sexual misconduct in any form.

If you have experienced any incidents of bullying, harassment, discrimination, victimisation and/or sexual misconduct, by a member of the university community, we would encourage you to report this to the University's Dignity at Study Champions, via the [Dignity at Study Reporting form](#).

If you have experienced any unwanted behaviours from others outside of the University community, you can find out more information about the support available to you, including external services and resources via our [Student Safety](#) webpage.

In the case of an emergency, If you or someone you know is at immediate risk of harm please contact the police on 999. For non-urgent concerns please contact 101.

Students' Union —

The Students' Union (SU) is run by students and represents all University of Greater Manchester students. The SU has an elected President and is independent of the University to ensure student's interests are recognised and voiced. The Students' Union provides support, advice and guidance on a range of topics including academic matters, health and welfare, student voice and community-based events and activities to support your general wellbeing. The Students' Union is also a hate crime reporting centre to which a trained advisor is available to support students who have directly experienced or witnessed hate crime.

You can find out more information about what support is available at the Students' Union via the contact details below:

- Website: [Bolton Students' Union](#)
- Telephone: 01204 900850
- Email: info@boltonsu.com

- Call in person: The Students Union, Chancellors Building, Chancellors Mall

Key Take Aways

British Values help build a respectful, safe, and inclusive community—both at university and in wider society. By understanding and applying them, you help create a place free from discrimination and intolerance.