

Royal College of Music Policy on external speakers at internal and external RCM-organised events

This policy relates to both RCM and RCM Student Union organised events on or off RCM premises.

The Royal College of Music also upholds the values of academic freedom and freedom of speech. Section 43(1) of the Education (No 2) Act 1986 places an obligation on universities to 'take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that freedom of speech within the law is secured for members, students and employees of the establishment and for visiting speakers'.

The Royal College of Music also has a duty under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, to manage the risk of radicalisation and the development of extremist views among staff and students.

In line with these responsibilities, and notwithstanding its support for academic freedom, the College will not permit events at which there is an expectation that extremist or radical views will be expressed that will seek to popularise hatred of those with protected characteristics or will promulgate extremist or radical views that support or encourage terrorism.

All events that involve an external speaker will be subject to a risk assessment. Any event that may involve a controversial speaker or topic, in these terms, will be referred to Directorate for a decision on whether to permit it to proceed. Where the College has sufficient concern about an external speaker, information about the individual/organisation will be shared with the BIS Prevent Coordinator.

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