

The notes in this section are based on the Institute's experience of what can go wrong. It tries to focus on how you can get on with your neighbours to make your life, and theirs, more enjoyable.

### Get to know your neighbours

When you move in, introduce yourself to your new neighbours - their local knowledge can help you settle in a new locality. It also helps if you know each other and you are not just "the students next door".

### Be a good neighbour

You may find yourself next door to a young family, a retired couple or a middle-aged person living alone. Since not everyone has the same work, rest and play schedule, please be a respectful neighbour and be considerate on noise in particular at all times. WIT strongly recommends that you stick to a 'noise ban' between the hours of 10 pm and 7 am. Remember that noise can be caused by music, shouting, playing ball games (indoors and outdoors) and running or walking around on uncarpeted floors and stairs in hard-soled footwear.

### Hosting parties

If you're planning a party, think of your neighbours and talk to them about what you've in mind - date, numbers of guests and agree with them when the party will end. Week nights may be when you've most potential guests around but consider the impact you're having on people likely to be getting up for work or school the next morning.

For your own sake take care to only invite people to your accommodation who you know and trust. Many parties can be spoiled by guests and gatecrashers behaving badly and you'll wake up with more than a hangover if your accommodation's damaged by someone you have no comeback on. You could be held responsible for their behaviour.

### Parking

If you own a car, don't park it inconsiderately - for instance, blocking someone's drive. Apart from the inconvenience it will cause, it could also prevent emergency access. Also, if you live near WIT, consider walking to college rather than bringing your car.

### Refuse collections and outdoor tidiness

Manage your household waste in accordance with Waterford City Council's bye-laws.

Make an effort to keep common areas and outdoor parts of the property where you live tidy and presentable - this will give you a better living environment.

### Your rights and responsibilities as a tenant

As a tenant, you have responsibilities to your landlord just as they have to you. You can get useful information on this from the Private Residential Tenancies Board - see the contact information below.

### Resolving disputes

If you do encounter difficulties with your neighbours, ask yourself if your behaviour has been reasonable and if you and your house-mates are the type of people you'd like your parents or grandparents to be living alongside. If not, then you should meet your neighbours, apologize and ensure that you don't behave that way again.

### Useful contacts and web sites

Emergency	999
Garda Síochána	051 305300
Waterford City Council	051 309900
Waterford Regional Hospital	051 848000

#### Refuse collection

[www.waterfordcity.ie/environment/bins\\_index.htm](http://www.waterfordcity.ie/environment/bins_index.htm)

#### Private Residential Tenancies Board

web site: <http://www.prtb.ie>

email [prtb@environ.ie](mailto:prtb@environ.ie)

phone 01 8882960 (10am to 12.30pm on weekdays)

### How to get a copy of the code of conduct

Download from the Code of Conduct web page

<http://www.wit.ie/conduct>



# Community Awareness

## Waterford Institute of Technology

Waterford
School of Business
School of Education
School of Engineering
School of Health Science
School of Humanities
School of Science

## A guide for WIT students

WIT Student Disciplinary Committee

## Student Disciplinary Committee

The Student Disciplinary Committee enforces the Student Code of Conduct, which applies to student behaviour inside and outside the institute. If you break the code, you could be liable to penalties up to and including expulsion from WIT. This leaflet tells you how to avoid penalties that might arise from your behaviour outside the Institute. This page summarizes the main points.

### *In public places*

- Behave responsibly after drinking alcohol
- Don't make noise in streets late at night (after 10 pm)
- Don't vandalize or destroy things that don't belong to you
- Find appropriate places to play games or meet in large numbers (for example, public parks)
- Park your car responsibly – don't block gateways or narrow streets

### *Living in or near a residential community*

- Get to know your neighbours
- Be a good neighbour - think how you would like your parents' neighbours to behave?
- Stick to a 'noise ban' between the hours of 10 pm and 7 am
- Parking - see above
- Manage your household waste in accordance with Waterford City Council's bye-laws
- Make an effort to keep common areas and outdoor parts of the property where you live tidy and presentable
- If you're planning a party, think of your neighbours and talk to them about what you've in mind - date, numbers of guests and agree with them when the party will end
- If you hold a party - avoid gatecrashers. You could be held responsible for the behaviour of your guests

## Introduction

Everybody wants to work, study and live in supportive surroundings. Nobody wants their work and leisure disturbed by people who behave antisocially. Waterford Institute of Technology tries to provide these surroundings for its students and just as importantly, it encourages them in turn to respect the needs of other students and the communities where they work, play and rest. This leaflet deals with this aspect of student life.

Most students get on with their studies and enjoy themselves in ways that don't annoy anyone else – but some don't and the Institute has developed a Student Code of Conduct and a Disciplinary Committee to deal with their misbehaviour. These notes give some guidance to students about how these work and how to avoid running into trouble.



If you unreasonably disturb others' rights to peace and quiet, or disrespect their property – either physical or intellectual – then you will have broken the code. This does not just apply to behaviour in the grounds of WIT: one of the most common forms of misconduct is that of inconsiderate, rude or even aggressive behaviour outside the Institute's property. This gives a bad name to all students and to the Institute itself so it's dealt with in more detail in this leaflet.

No-one is saying you should not enjoy yourself, but your enjoyment should not cause avoidable distress to other people.

### **Street behaviour**

Most antisocial behaviour is caused by drunkenness – many people think they are very attractive when drunk, but trust us, they're not. Drink responsibly, because drunkenness, apart from being unpleasant in itself, is not an excuse for littering, vandalism, aggressiveness, verbal abuse or loud noise late at night. So, when returning home from a party or from a visit to a pub or nightclub, keep a grip on how you act. The Disciplinary Committee can fine you for antisocial behaviour and make you pay compensation for damage you cause.

Here are some other causes of annoyance

- Playing ball games in public places – try to find a proper recreational area or sports ground.
- Inconsiderate car parking – don't park across people's drives or in a way that blocks access for public service (eg refuse collections) or emergency vehicles such as ambulances.

### **Living in or near a residential community**

Staying in off-campus accommodation may be your first experience of living away from home and we want you to enjoy what can be a challenging transition to independence as you also adjust to college life.

In Waterford, much of the private rented accommodation available to students is in residential areas. While many of the houses in these areas are occupied by students during the academic year, there are also many family homes and this mix is important when considering your accommodation options and how you behave in your new home.