Social media and messaging policy

The spirit

As a Chevening Awardee, you belong to a unique group of future leaders from around the world who have personally been selected by the UK government to study in the UK. As such, you also become something of an ambassador for your own country and community whilst in the UK. The spirit of Chevening is about developing bonds, intercultural understanding, and intellectual curiosity through the respectful exchange of ideas, opportunities, knowledge, and experiences.

Chevening Awardees come from all walks of life, so please be mindful of how your statements, comments, articles, or jokes may be received, both face-to-face and online.

The terms of use outlined below form part of the Chevening terms and conditions that you agreed to abide by when you accepted your Chevening Award.

The terms of use

1. You should not publish content that:
    - 1.1. Is unlawful, defamatory, or harassing. This includes:
        - 1.1.1. Publishing unlawful, discriminatory, derogatory, or harassing content relating to sex, gender, race, nationality, disability, sexual orientation, religion/beliefs, age, or any other such trait.
        - 1.1.2. Publishing content that is hateful, defamatory, threatening, discriminatory, or pornographic.
        - 1.1.3. Behaving in a bullying, intimidating, or harassing manner towards other users, organisations, or page administrators.
    - 1.2. Contains, or alludes to, unlawful material.
    - 1.3. Encourages anyone to act in contravention of the terms of their award.
    - 1.4. Constitutes spam or promotes or advertises products that have little relevance to the spirit and purpose of the group.
    - 1.5. Associates the Chevening Secretariat, the FCDO or its embassies/high commissions, or universities with personal views or comments.

2. The Chevening Secretariat will determine whether content contravenes any of the above terms.

3. Content that contravenes any of the above terms will be removed by the Chevening Secretariat from spaces that the Secretariat administers.

4. We will not edit any of your comments. If you post content that contravenes these guidelines, and we have to remove it, we will contact you to explain why. Transgressors may face disciplinary action, which could range from an official warning to the revocation of your award.

5. You should always be aware of maintaining security and take the necessary precautions when using social media and messaging platforms. Be mindful that any content which is posted on such platforms – even within closed spaces – may make it into the public domain.

6. The Chevening Secretariat reserves the right to use content posted in the Facebook group for marketing or promotional purposes. As a matter of principle, we will always attempt to contact the original poster to seek permission prior to using content from closed groups. We will regularly and spontaneously share our favourite and relevant content from awardees' LinkedIn and Instagram feeds.

7. You are not permitted to create an official Chevening group, page, profile, or website on any online platform. This extends to the use of the word 'Chevening' or its derivatives in the name of any group, page, profile, domain, etc., and use of the logo. You are not permitted to use the Chevening logo without our explicit, written consent. You are encouraged to add Chevening to your online bios and profiles if you would like to. If you wish to use the Chevening name or branding in any other manner, please contact your programme officer first for permission.

8. If you take it upon yourself to administer an unofficial online group containing members of the Chevening community, you also assume responsibility for ensuring that the spirit of the Chevening programme is upheld in those spaces.

9. We may at any time, and without notice to you, revise this policy.

10. Nothing in this social media and messaging policy limits your rights to freedom of speech within the law in line with the provisions in the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023.

Date of review	October 2026
Date of next review	October 2027