

# Leeds Arts Union

## Life Drawing Society Session Guidelines 24/25

Originator: Students' Union  
Date: September 2024

The Life Drawing society is committed to ensuring a safe and inclusive community that is led by students for the benefit of each other. The Leeds Arts Union staff support the organisation of the society.

We are dedicated to ensuring all societies provide a respectful and friendly environment. Central to the society is ensuring an atmosphere of mutual respect and professionalism whilst sessions are running. We ask that all society members adhere to the following guidelines and the Society Members Code of Conduct to ensure that all students and models feel welcomed and a part of our community. Any breach of these Guidelines, or of the Society Member Code of Conduct should be reported to the Society Leader or to Leeds Arts Union staff.

As a member of the society you are entitled to equal input and can provide any ideas or feedback either at the session, via email to [student.union@leeds-art.ac.uk](mailto:student.union@leeds-art.ac.uk) or through the LAU Life Drawing Society email: [lifedrawingsoc@students.leeds-art.ac.uk](mailto:lifedrawingsoc@students.leeds-art.ac.uk).

**Please read each point carefully and ensure that as a member of the Society or Society Leader you are abiding by these regulations at all times:**

1. Under no circumstances are photographs or videos to be taken whilst the society session is in progress. This includes clothed sessions, in order to ensure consistency and protect the privacy of the model. Once the session is over and the model is no longer present, photographs may be taken of artwork. In the event that an attendee is seen taking photos or videos during the session, this should be immediately reported to the Society Leader running the session. The Society Leader will require the individual to delete the material, and watch them do so, to ensure that all material is destroyed. The individual will also be asked to leave the session. If, in a future session, the same individual continues to attempt to take photos or videos, they will not be permitted to attend any future Leeds Arts Union Life Drawing sessions. In the event that an individual refuses to delete material, or will not leave the session, this should be reported to Leeds Arts Union staff, who will report this to Human Resources.
2. To ensure a safe and welcoming community, society members must not act in any way that would be offensive, derogatory and/or disparaging towards another member or individual, or towards the model. All participants will act respectfully towards the model at all times. No personal remarks will be made about the model either directly or to other members of the group throughout the session.
3. Participants will not do anything to undermine the atmosphere of the class. This includes eating, chatting and/or using mobile phones whilst poses are in session. Participants are permitted to bring drinking water to the session, providing this is contained in a bottle with a closable lid. No other liquids are permitted.
4. Participants must provide their own drawing materials including paper, pencils, charcoal and oil pastels. Any other materials, including chemicals, are not covered in the Leeds Arts Union Risk Assessment for this space and are therefore not permitted.
5. Once the session has begun and the model has begun posing, no late arrivals shall be permitted to enter the session.
6. Doors and windows must be covered at all times to allow the model privacy. A sign must be put on the door of the session to advise that the session is taking place.
7. Physical contact between the models and participants should always be avoided wherever possible and unless absolutely necessary. In extraordinary circumstances, where there is no reasonable alternative, physical contact requires express consent by the model, and should only ever be for the purposes of communicating a pose. The Society Leader will advise and communicate poses to the model, and take suggestions or requests from the group where appropriate.
8. Society Life Drawing sessions are run by the Society Leader who will liaise with the model about poses and take suggestions from the group where appropriate. As a member of the group, you must respect this leadership role of the Society Leader at all times and not attempt to disrupt the session.
9. Privacy of the model must be respected at all times. The model will have a separate changing area, which in most circumstances will be a toilet with cubicle facilities. The Society Leader will escort the model to the changing area after they have collected the model from reception and signed them in.
10. A short break for the model, no more than ten minutes every hour, should be allowed. Times for breaks must be agreed at the start of the session. Society Leaders should communicate with models to check if they have become uncomfortable in a pose and need to reposition

or have a break throughout the session. This should be outlined to the model by the Society Leader at the start of the session.

11. Society Leaders will be in charge of the structure of the session. Society Leaders may partake in the session but the expectation is that they must always prioritise the running of the session. This includes paying due attention to the model, ensuring all attendees are behaving appropriately, and being available to answer questions or suggest changes in poses. This means that Society Leaders must break off from their own individual participation in the session when needed. They will remain in the room at all times throughout the session. In an emergency where the Society Leader must leave the room, the session will be paused and the model will be asked to put on a robe and take a short break.
12. In the event of a breach of these Life Drawing Society Session Guidelines, or the Society Members Code of Conduct, the Society Leader will inform the Leeds Arts Union staff. Failure to observe any of these points may result in expulsion from the society. Where necessary, further University action will be taken. All Leeds Arts Union societies are facilitated in line with University policies.