



INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ADVANCED STUDIES (VISTAS)
(Deemed to be University Estd. u/s 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)

PALLAVARAM, THALAMBUR, PERIYAPALAYAM-CHENNAI
ACCREDITED BY **NAAC** WITH **A++** GRADE

ANTI-RAGGING POLICY

1. Preamble

Vels Institute of Science, Technology and Advanced Studies (VISTAS) adopts a **zero-tolerance** policy towards ragging in any form. Ragging is recognized as a grave violation of human dignity and fundamental human rights, including the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, and is treated as a serious offence under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 and the UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions.

VISTAS affirms that no student shall be subjected to harassment, humiliation or violence by any other student or group of students in the name of tradition, fun, initiation or seniority. Ragging is a **human-rights abuse**, and this Policy is intended to prevent, prohibit and redress such abuse in all institutional spaces.

2. Objectives

This Anti-Ragging Policy aims to:

- Ensure a safe, respectful and inclusive learning environment for all students, in line with constitutional and human-rights norms.
- Declare ragging as a punishable offence both institutionally and, where applicable, under BNS, 2023.
- Lay down a clear framework for prevention, reporting, inquiry and redressal of ragging incidents.

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- Define the roles and responsibilities of the VISTAS Anti-Ragging Committee, Anti-Ragging Squads and all stakeholders as per UGC Regulations.

3. Scope and Applicability

This Policy applies to:

- All students (UG, PG, research scholars) of VISTAS, whether full-time, part-time, distance or exchange.
- All premises and activities of VISTAS, including academic buildings, libraries, laboratories, hostels, canteens, sports grounds, transport, fieldwork, internships, study tours, industrial visits, cultural/sports events, and any online/virtual platforms officially used by VISTAS.
- Any act of ragging committed within or outside the campus, if it is associated with the name or activities of VISTAS.

4. Definition of Ragging

For the purpose of this Policy, VISTAS adopts the definition of ragging as per UGC Regulations:

Any conduct, whether by words spoken or written, or by an act, which has the effect of **teasing, treating or handling with rudeness** a fresher or any other student; or engaging in rowdy, undisciplined activities which cause or are likely to cause annoyance, hardship, physical or psychological harm; or which raises fear or apprehension in any student; or which results in **shame, embarrassment or violation of dignity** of a student.

Ragging includes, but is not limited to:

- Physical abuse: beating, hitting, pushing, forced physical tasks, confinement, or any form of assault.
- Verbal/emotional abuse: insults, humiliating remarks, threats, obscenities, mocking of language, caste, religion, region, gender or disability.
- Sexual harassment or abuse: obscene gestures, unwanted advances, coercion, or any act with sexual connotations.


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- Academic/administrative harassment: forcing a student to perform assignments for seniors, interfering with study, attendance or examination rights.
- Online/cyber ragging: abusive messages, trolling, posting humiliating content or images on social media or digital platforms linked to VISTAS.

Ragging is thus treated as:

- A **disciplinary offence** under this Policy; and
- Potentially a **criminal offence** under BNS, 2023, depending on the nature and severity of the act.

5. Legal Framework (BNS & Human Rights)

Serious incidents of ragging may attract relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, such as (illustrative):


- Assault or use of criminal force causing hurt or grievous hurt.
- Wrongful restraint or wrongful confinement.
- Criminal intimidation and threats of injury.
- Acts that may amount to abetment of suicide where extreme harassment leads to self-harm.

In such cases, VISTAS shall **immediately refer the matter to the police** for registration of FIR, in addition to its own disciplinary action.

From a human-rights perspective, ragging is a violation of:

- The right to life and personal liberty with dignity.
- The right to equality and non-discrimination.
- The right to be free from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Victims may also seek recourse through constitutional courts and human rights commissions, apart from institutional mechanisms.


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6. Institutional Mechanisms at VISTAS

VISTAS has constituted the following bodies as per UGC Regulations:

1. Anti-Ragging Committee

- Chaired by a senior academic leader, with members from faculty, administration, parents, students, non-teaching staff, and an external representative (e.g., NGO or civil society).
- Overall body for policy oversight, decision-making on cases, and recommending disciplinary and preventive measures.

2. Anti-Ragging Squads

- Mobile teams consisting of faculty and staff who conduct surprise visits and vigilance in hostels, canteens, corridors and other sensitive zones, especially during the beginning of the academic year.

3. Anti-Ragging Cell

- Nodal operational unit coordinating prevention, complaint handling, documentation, and liaison with UGC's anti-ragging portal and law-enforcement agencies.

4. Wide Publicity and Signage

- VISTAS has placed prominent **anti-ragging billboards, posters and electronic displays** at all key locations (academic blocks, hostels, entrances, canteens, buses, etc.) clearly stating:
 - Ragging is a punishable offence.
 - Key BNS and UGC legal consequences.
 - Contact details of the Anti-Ragging Committee, helpline numbers and email IDs.

7. Preventive Measures

To prevent ragging, VISTAS shall:



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- Obtain **online/physical anti-ragging undertakings/affidavits** from all students and parents at the time of admission and every academic year, as per UGC guidelines.
- Conduct compulsory **orientation programmes** for freshers and parents highlighting rights, responsibilities, complaint mechanisms and legal consequences of ragging.
- Organize **sensitization programmes** for seniors, hostel wardens, faculty advisers and student leaders on human-rights impacts of ragging and positive peer mentoring.
- Maintain staggered hostel and class scheduling for freshers in the initial weeks, with increased vigilance by Anti-Ragging Squads.


8. Reporting and Complaint Mechanism

Any student who experiences or witnesses ragging may report through one or more of the following:

- Anti-ragging committee members details are placed in web site.
- Phone numbers of Anti-Ragging Committee members and hostel wardens displayed on billboards and website.
- Written complaint submitted to the Anti-Ragging Cell, Principal/Dean or any faculty member.
- UGC national anti-ragging helpline or online complaint portal.

Key principles:

- **No victimization:** Complainants, witnesses and supporters shall be protected against retaliation.
- **Confidentiality:** Identity of complainant and details of inquiry shall be kept confidential to the extent possible and lawful.
- **Accessibility:** Complaints may be made in any language, orally (to be recorded) or in writing, and assistance will be provided to vulnerable students (e.g., PwD).


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9. Inquiry and Redressal Process

1. Preliminary Review

- On receipt of a complaint, the Anti-Ragging Cell will conduct a preliminary assessment within a short, specified time (e.g., 24–72 hours) to ensure immediate safety of the complainant (e.g., temporary hostel/section change, no-contact direction).

2. Formal Inquiry

- The Anti-Ragging Committee or an Inquiry Sub-Committee will:
 - Examine written/oral complaints and responses.
 - Interview the complainant, accused students, and witnesses separately.
 - Review any documentary, electronic or CCTV evidence.
- The inquiry shall be **time-bound**, adhering as closely as possible to UGC timelines and institutional rules (e.g., target completion within 90 days).

3. Report and Decision


- A reasoned report will be submitted to the Competent Authority (e.g., Head of Institution/Vice-Chancellor) with findings and recommended actions.
- In cases involving serious physical/sexual assault, threat to life, or likely offences under BNS, the matter shall be immediately referred to the police for registration of FIR while institutional inquiry proceeds or is aligned with legal process.

4. Communication

- The complainant and the accused shall be informed of the outcome and actions taken, while respecting privacy norms.
- Parties will be informed of any appeal mechanism available under institutional rules

10. Disciplinary and Legal Consequences

Depending on the gravity of the offence, VISTAS may impose one or more of the following penalties on students found guilty of ragging, in line with UGC Regulations:


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- Oral/written warning and formal apology.
- Suspension from attending classes and academic privileges.
- Withholding/withdrawing scholarship, fellowship and other benefits.
- Debarring from appearing in examinations.
- Withholding of results.
- Suspension or expulsion from hostel.
- Cancellation of admission and rustication from the institution.
- Debarring from admission to any other institution for a specified period.
- Recommendation for criminal proceedings under applicable provisions of BNS, 2023.

These institutional actions are **in addition** to any punishment imposed by criminal courts


11. Rights and Support for Victims

VISTAS recognizes victims of ragging as rights-holders and will:

- Provide access to **counseling and psychological support** through qualified counselors.
- Facilitate medical care where needed.
- Offer academic and hostel accommodations to ensure safety and continuity of education.
- Inform victims of their legal rights and avenues, including UGC helpline and human-rights mechanisms.

12. Monitoring, Reporting and Review

- The Anti-Ragging Committee shall prepare an **annual report** summarizing number and nature of complaints, actions taken, preventive programmes conducted, and recommendations for improvement, which will be submitted to the Competent Authority and uploaded on the institutional website as required.
- VISTAS shall upload all mandatory information and compliance reports on the UGC anti-ragging portal and respond to any directions from regulatory bodies.


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- This Policy will be **periodically reviewed** (at least once in three years, or earlier if required) to incorporate amendments to UGC Regulations, BNS provisions, and emerging human-rights standards


This Anti-Ragging Policy is binding on all students of VISTAS. Ignorance of the Policy or of the law shall not be accepted as a defence in any case of ragging.

ANTI-RAGGING COMMITTEE 2025-26

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14	Mr. Santhosh Kumar Ph: 7358500805	II Year M. Sc. Computer Science
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Policy Renewed on : 25.09.25


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