

*This document is under review, if you have any input, please email safety@unsw.edu.au.

HS414 Visitors to UNSW Facilities Guideline

Introduction

The purpose of this Guideline is to help standardise and clarify procedures relating to persons visiting facilities of the University of New South Wales (UNSW), especially laboratories, workshops, and other areas of a moderate to high-risk nature. The Guideline will assist local areas develop procedures to manage the workplace health, safety, and welfare of visitors. It is the intention of UNSW to ensure all persons are protected while visiting and/or working in its facilities.

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1. Scope

This Guideline applies to all UNSW laboratories, workshops, and other facilities where visitors may be potentially exposed to risks to their health, safety, and welfare.

2. Responsibilities

- The person coordinating the visit is responsible for ensuring an induction takes place when required.
- Visitors are responsible for complying with any reasonable instruction given to them in relation to managing health and safety.
- All local areas that allow visitor access to “Moderate or High-Risk facilities” are responsible for developing and implementing a local procedure incorporating the requirements of this guideline. A Model procedure is available in Appendix B.
- Organisers of special public events such as open days, fetes or functions are required to assess and control the risks for the event.

3. Requirements for all Visitors

- Visitors should attend the school office or be met by the person organizing the visit.

- Visitors should be accompanied to moderate and high-risk areas by a UNSW staff member.
- Visitors must be inducted according to local area program or be accompanied by a competent person for the duration of the visit.
- Visitors to high-risk facilities must always be inducted.
- Visitors being left alone must always be inducted.
- Visitors to moderate risk facilities must receive an appropriate induction.
- The extent of any induction will depend on the duration of the visit, level of supervision, types and level of hazards and the assessment of risk. The HS630 Visitor Induction Form may be used for this purpose.
- Records should be kept identifying the content of induction and that the inductee has agreed to follow any reasonable instruction in relation to health and safety. The HS Induction form for visitors satisfies this requirement.
- Staff in the facility visited should be advised of the visitor presence, duration of the visit and whether working alone.
- A record of visitor's name, purpose and time of arrival and departure may be recorded in case an emergency situation arises. For visits longer than one day, a more detailed record should be kept including emergency contact details.
- After hours visiting should be approved beforehand by the appropriate local area manager and should be in accordance with HS322 Working After Hours Guideline
- Children must be supervised at all times.

4. Requirements for visitors conducting work

Visitors engaging in any work activity or observing staff or students undertaking high risk work, must obtain authority to do so from the Head of School, Unit manager, lab manager or local area supervisor. The HS049 Induction Form - Laboratory is available to aid this process for laboratory areas.

All work undertaken by visitors must be covered by a risk assessment, safe operating procedure, safe work method statement or equivalent.

Visitors who are working should be supervised until they are deemed competent to work unsupervised (based on qualifications, training, and experience). Also see section for Work experience students and Volunteers.

The following additional induction information should be considered:

- All relevant and appropriate training normally associated with the task/activity.
- Procedures for spills control and waste disposal.
- Information on procedures for reporting of hazards, incidents, and illnesses.
- Who to contact to get safety concerns addressed.

5. Requirements for work experience students and Volunteers

This section must be read in conjunction with the requirements for visitors conducting work and the same requirements applied with special consideration to the following.

There is a need to recognise that young people and volunteers are often likely to be inexperienced in the workplace and unaware of health and safety risks. Students may be physically, mentally and emotionally immature. It is imperative that appropriate measures are taken to meet the specific HS needs and requirements of young people and volunteers while in the workplace.

A work experience student or volunteer may **lack**:

- any experience in a workplace.
- understanding of why they should follow safety instructions.
- ability to make judgements about the safety of themselves and others.
- background knowledge or understanding of warning signs to recognise that they may be exposed to a hazard.
- experience in using personal protective equipment and/or.
- the ability to work with minimum supervision.



Staff must be made aware of the special responsibilities associated with working with children and young people under 18 years of age. (refer to "[An Employer's Guide to Workplace Learning for secondary students in government schools and TAFE NSW institutes](#)", Revised Ed. 2010)

Supervisors may be required, by high schools, to sign off that they are not aware of anything in the background of any staff member or other person who will have close contact with the student that would preclude that staff member or person from working with children.

6. Requirements for contractors

- All contractors, engaged by Facilities Management, must complete the UNSW Site Specific HS Induction for contractors.
- Other units engaging contractors must ensure an induction program is in place and implemented.
- Decontamination of laboratory work areas and equipment should be carried out prior to the arrival of the contractor and any hazards removed or secured.
- HS700 Laboratory Clearance Certificate should be displayed at the entrance to the facility space and in decontaminated areas to prevent recontamination. Contractors must not enter a laboratory without a current signed and dated Laboratory Clearance Certificate.
- Contractors must contact local area/facility supervisors before entering a laboratory or workshop area to carry out services.
- Contractors must fully inform the local area/facility manager/supervisor of the nature of their intended work and of any hazards associated with that work.
- Facility staff should be advised of contractor presence, nature of work (including introduced hazards and disruption of services) and duration of visit.
- Hazardous work involving sources of heat and/or ignition must be notified in advance to allow dangerous goods and hazardous substances to be safely stored or removed from the work area. Fire and smoke detectors may need to be isolated locally – consult with Facilities Management. An HS821 Hot Work Permit will also need to be completed.
- Contractors working in laboratories and workshops must receive a local area/facility induction. The Laboratory Clearance Certificate makes provision for this induction; however, a more detailed induction may be given in addition to this, using either the HS049 Induction Form - Laboratory or HS630 Visitor Induction Form.

7. List of High-Risk hazards (AS2243.1:2005)

High-risk hazards, which may be encountered, include the following:

- Operating equipment or machinery, including workshop machinery capable of inflicting serious injury, such as chainsaws, firearms, lathes, and power saws.
- Working with, or near, highly toxic, or corrosive substances where there is a significant risk of exposure to the substance, considering the volume used.
- Using apparatus that could result in explosion, implosion, or the release of high energy fragments or significant amounts of toxic or environmentally damaging hazardous material.
- Working with microorganisms of Risk Group 3 and higher.

8. Definitions

Moderate Risk Facilities: Includes UNSW facilities where moderate risk activities are undertaken, such as: PC2 lab, low level radiation lab, workshop, construction site, class 3 laser lab, chemistry lab, anatomy lab.

High Risk Facilities: Includes UNSW facilities where high risk activities are undertaken, such as: PC3 or PC4 lab, medium or high-level radiation lab, class 4 laser lab, some workshops (see section 3.6).

Local area: The Unit / School / Centre / Department responsible for the facility that is being visited.



Visitor: means a person who does not normally reside or work in an area and is therefore not familiar with local hazards. This may include:

- Persons visiting unfamiliar work areas – whether in their own School/Unit or elsewhere.
- Contractors, labour hire, consultants, volunteers, work experience students and children of staff and students.

Work: Applies to all types of activities undertaken including laboratory tasks, clerical tasks, study, demonstration or maintenance of plant and equipment, and demonstration of experiments.

Competent person: Refers to someone who works in the local area and is familiar with its hazards.

9. Acknowledgements

- Australian /New Zealand Standard 2243.1:2005. Safety in laboratories. Part 1 Planning and operational aspects.
- NSW Department of Education and Training - An Employer’s Guide to Workplace Learning for secondary students in government schools and TAFE NSW institutes, Revised Ed. 2010.
- National Occupational Health and Safety Commission - Student work placement: An occupational health and safety guide for employers, March 2004.
- [Work Health and Safety Act 2011 \(nsw.gov.au\)](http://nsw.gov.au)
- [Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017 \(nsw.gov.au\)](http://nsw.gov.au)
- [List of codes of practice | SafeWork NSW](http://SafeWorkNSW)

Appendix A: Version Control

Version	Authorised by	Approval Date	Effective Date	Sections modified
1.0	Director Human Resources	03/06/05	03/06/05	Document created
2.0	Director Human Resources	01/06/2007	01/06/2007	Entire document reformatted. Add Legal & Policy Framework.
3.0	Director Human Resources	22/10/2010	22/10/2010	Entire document reformatted and revised.
3.1	Director Human Resources	23/03/2013	23/03/2013	Update legislation reference to WHS Act and Regulation 2011 Updated Branding Logo in accordance with UNSW Branding Guidelines. Modified the document identifier from OHS to HS in accordance with WHS legislation review
3.2	Director, UNSW Safety and Sustainability	30 April 2014	30 April 2014	Reviewed for administrative updates
4.0	Director, Risk & Safety Management	8 August 2022	8 August 2022	Reviewed for administrative update. Template update. Removed from Governance

Updates to this document

Any suggestions, recommendations or updates to this document should be emailed to safety@unsw.edu.au with the email header stating *GUIDELINES UPDATE HS414*.

