

Response on the purpose, proper use and management of the BCP Wall

Dear HKUST students,

The University recently removed some posts put on the Big Character Poster Wall (BCP Wall) by students. All of the posts are removed because they have not been registered as required by the BCP Wall guidelines. We are also aware that some contents in these unregistered posts are not complying with the guidelines. Hence, to facilitate a proper use of the BCP Wall, we would like to share with you about the purpose and guidelines of the BCP Wall in HKUST.

The BCP Wall is a place for expressing opinions and rational discussion by all HKUST students and staff with supporting facts, data and arguments. Any kind of promotion, propaganda, and simple sentimental expression with no clear message for discussion are not fit for the purpose of the BCP Wall. Message with profane or insulting content, related to discrimination, promoting violence or hatred, or violating the laws are not allowed.

To uphold this purpose, issuers should send the soft copy of their posts to DSTO (dst@ust.hk) or HKUSTSU (su_union@connect.ust.hk) with their full name and student/staff ID for registration in advance. We would review whether the posts contain any inappropriate or unlawful messages as stated in the guidelines.

If the posts comply with the guidelines, we would put a stamp on the posts and the issuers can post on the wall for two weeks. Unregistered posts, posts not complying with the BCP Wall, and expired posts will be removed without notice. The issuers, after properly registered, can put up their posts on the BCP Wall in anonymity. For details, please refer to the guidelines posted on two sides of the BCP Wall.

The University expects all students, as a responsible person, should provide clear reasoning, logical arguments supported by factual information for their opinions, and possibly to make constructive suggestions. The BCP Wall is not a place for airing frustrations, provoking others' emotions, or bashing each other as an emotional random act, anonymously with no consequence.

Moreover, the BCP Wall is managed by DSTO on behalf of the university with support from HKUSTSU. If we find any registered post which are not complying with the guidelines, DSTO will make the final decision in removing them. Any posts unregistered (i.e. without an authorized stamp on the posts) and stamped posts not complying with the guidelines or containing unlawful message will also be removed.

Should you have any questions about the guidelines, you are welcome to contact us through dst@ust.hk. Thank you.

Dean of Students' Office, HKUST
30 November 2022