What do we mean by social media?
Social media is any online interactive tool which encourages participation, interaction and exchanges, such as blogs, discussion forums, instant messaging and any website that allows public commenting or posting.

Because the University is not responsible for and does not own any content you post on social media, you should make it clear that you are posting in a personal capacity on all your profiles.

Professional courses
If your course will result in a professional qualification you may have to meet standards of behaviour set by the national professional body or by an institution you are working for (eg the General Medical Council or a school), and those set by the University under the Fitness to Practice regulations. These standards apply to your activity on social media.

Freedom of Speech & Academic Freedom
Freedom of speech and academic freedom are vital components of who we are and what we represent at Warwick. This includes social media content, and nothing in this guidance is intended to compromise these fundamental freedoms.

Encouraging free and open debate is critical to learning, challenging assumptions and understanding different perspectives. It must be done with respect and without language or other content which could be deemed to be offensive, threatening or humiliating to others, or incites hatred of any kind.

Future Employment
Many employers carry out an internet search before making offers of employment. Keep this in mind when posting, and when deciding on the privacy settings for your social media accounts. Are you happy for a potential employer to see your posts?

Consequences of posting inappropriate material
Posting comments, images or other content that others may find offensive may:
- be a breach of our Online and Social Media Communications Policy and result in disciplinary action
- result in you losing the opportunity to pursue your chosen profession
- result in a civil claim, including actions for defamation, harassment, breach of intellectual property rights, fraudulent misrepresentation or breach of confidence
- be a criminal offence, including harassment, stalking, hate crimes, coercive or controlling behaviour, disclosing private sexual images without consent, blackmail, malicious communications and terrorism offences.