OUR APPROACH TO SUPPORTING TRANS AND NON-BINARY STAFF
CONTENTS

3 AIM
3 POLICY STATEMENT ON EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
3 EQUALITIES LEGISLATION
4 INTRODUCTION AND PRINCIPLES
5-6 SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS: PROSPECTIVE AND NEW STAFF
7-8 SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS: EXISTING TRANS AND NON-BINARY STAFF AND STAFF WHO TRANSITION WHILE AT ESSEX
9-10 SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE FOR MANAGERS
11 GUIDANCE FOR COLLEAGUES
12 LGBT+ FORUMS/NETWORKS
12-14 GUIDANCE FOR HUMAN RESOURCES STAFF
15 AN OVERVIEW OF TRANSITIONING
16-18 DEFINITIONS AND TERMINOLOGY
AIM

This document sets out how the University supports new and existing trans and non-binary staff and those who transition whilst at Essex. It is a resource for trans and non-binary individuals, for those with management responsibilities for trans and non-binary staff, for colleagues of trans and non-binary staff and for Human Resources staff.

Our Approach to Supporting Trans and Non-Binary Staff is one of a suite of documents that sets out how we aim to create an inclusive environment in which all staff feel safe and supported. Other related documents include our Athena SWAN Bronze Institution Action Plan, which focuses on our commitment to gender equality more broadly, our Zero Tolerance Approach to Harassment and Bullying, our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and our strategic approach to supporting all staff; ‘How we Work at Essex’.

POLICY STATEMENT ON EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The University of Essex celebrates diversity, challenges inequality and is committed to sustaining an inclusive and diverse community that is open to all who have the potential to benefit from membership of it and which ensure equality of opportunity for all its members.

We expect employees, workers, contractors, students and visitors to be treated, and to treat each other, with dignity and respect regardless of age, disability, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, political beliefs and affiliations, family circumstances or other irrelevant distinction.

EQUALITIES LEGISLATION

Under the Equality Act 2010, it is unlawful to discriminate against or treat someone unfairly because of their gender identity or trans status. Examples of discrimination include outing someone as trans without their permission, refusing to use someone’s preferred name and correct gender pronoun and denying someone access to appropriate single-sex facilities.

Under the Gender Recognition Act 2004 it is a criminal offence to pass on information ‘acquired in the course of official duties’ about a person’s application for a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC) - a GRC legally recognises ones acquired gender - or that someone has a GRC.

An individual’s trans status is classed as ‘sensitive personal data' under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and therefore must also be collected, recorded and used in line with the GDPR's principles.

1 For the purposes of this document, the term trans refers to those who have, are, or are proposing to transition from one binary gender to another or from one binary gender to a non-binary gender identity and consider themselves to be trans.

2 Gender Identity A person’s innate sense of their own gender, which may or may not correspond to the sex assigned at birth.

3 Pronoun Words we use to refer to people’s gender in conversation - for example, ‘she’, ‘he’, ‘ze’ or ‘they’. 
INTRODUCTION

The University is committed to establishing an inclusive environment in which all staff are valued and respected for being the gender they know they are.

We recognise that laws, policies and processes alone do not create inclusive environments and this is why we take a holistic approach, which places as much emphasis on how people behave as it does on policy and process.

This document sets out our approach to supporting trans and non-binary staff in the context of our broader commitment to celebrating the diversity of our students and staff, nurturing communities of belonging in which all are accepted without exception, and promoting inclusion, well-being, resilience and empowerment to enable everyone to reach their full potential.

Human Resources developed this document in collaboration with members of our LGBT+ networks.

PRINCIPLES

The way in which the University supports trans and non-binary staff is based on five key principles:

1. Staff can self-identify their gender for University purposes
2. No bullying or harassment of trans or non-binary staff will be tolerated
3. The needs of each trans employee will be addressed individually
4. The process of transitioning at work will be led by the person transitioning
5. An individual’s trans status will be kept confidential, in line with the person’s wishes and the law

Trans staff are encouraged to share relevant information with their line manager in order to aid the provision of support.

Under the Equality Act 2010, it is illegal to out someone as trans without their permission. Under the Gender Recognition Act 2004 it is a criminal offence to pass on information ‘acquired in the course of official duties’ about a person’s application for a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC) - a GRC legally recognises ones acquired gender - or that someone has a GRC.

You can use the title MX if you wish
SECTION 1: SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

We want all trans staff, and those who identify outside of the gender binary, to feel welcome and confident that the University understands what it means to be trans or non-binary and that our people and processes recognise that every trans journey is unique.

PROSPECTIVE AND NEW STAFF

NAMED HUMAN RESOURCES CONTACT

All prospective and new trans staff have the option of being allocated a named member of Human Resources staff to support them through the recruitment process. If you choose to take up this option it means that you can contact your named contact directly with any questions you may have, rather than using our general staffing@essex.ac.uk email address.

Your named contact can advise on the support, facilities and services available to you at the University and act as a link between you and your line manager.

Our Resourcing Team can arrange for you to have a named contact. Their contact details are here: https://www.essex.ac.uk/staff/professional-services/hr-resourcing-team

RIGHT TO WORK DOCUMENTATION

We ask all those invited for interview to provide us with evidence of their ‘right to work’ in the UK. This usually involves you being asked to bring the relevant documentation with you on the day of interview and showing it to a member of the selection panel.

If you only have right to work documentation in your birth name and gender, and you do not want to disclose your trans status to the interview panel, you can speak to your named contact in Human Resources, if you choose to have one, (or any other member of Human Resources staff) for advice prior to attending your interview.

DISCLOSURE

Prospective and new staff are under no obligation to disclose their gender history at any point during the recruitment process or at any point after being employed. However, if you do wish to disclose this information, we will treat it confidentially and in line with your wishes.

Should you be appointed and wish to disclose your trans status to the University, your named Human Resources contact will, if you wish, talk to your line manager (either with you or alone) about how, or whether, you want colleagues to be informed, your pronouns and anything else that is important to you, in order that this can be planned in a thoughtful and sensitive way.

6 Gender Binary The idea that there are only two genders—female/male or woman/man, and that a person must be strictly gendered as either/or.

7 Non-Binary An umbrella term for people whose gender identity doesn’t sit comfortably with ‘woman’ or ‘man’. Non-binary identities are varied and can include people who identify with some aspects of binary identities, while others reject them entirely.
FACILITIES

No trans or non-binary member of our community should be denied access to any space, facility, event or group because they are trans or they identify outside of the gender binary.

We have a number of gender-neutral toilets, changing rooms and showering facilities throughout our campuses but where only single-sex facilities are available you are entitled to use the one that is most appropriate for you.

The University will not tolerate staff being questioned inappropriately about the facility they choose or being denied access to that facility. If you do experience this form of harassment, you can report it via our Report and Support service.

DRESS CODES

The University does not have a dress code that requires members of our community to dress in a particular way. Some roles do however require a uniform to be worn. If you are trans or non-binary and you are required to wear a uniform, you can choose the uniform that is most appropriate for you.

BENEFITS

All our benefits and family-friendly policies are inclusive and apply to everyone, including lesbian, gay, bi and trans staff and same-sex couples as well as heterosexual individuals and couples.

⚠️ The University has a zero tolerance approach to harassment and bullying. This means that i) we will take action and ii) the action will be proportionate to the circumstances of the case.
EXISTING TRANS AND NON-BINARY STAFF AND STAFF WHO TRANSITION WHILE AT ESSEX

DISCLOSURE

We respect the right of individuals to choose whether to be open about their trans or non-binary status or not. We also want to ensure that trans and non-binary staff have access to the same opportunities as cis male and female staff and that they have access to appropriate support. If you do disclose your trans or non-binary status, it will be held in confidence, in line with the General Data Protection Rules (GDPR) and your wishes.

INITIAL CONVERSATIONS

If you want to talk to someone about your trans or non-binary status, there are a variety of people you could approach. These include your line manager, a member of Human Resources staff or your trade union.

Whomever you talk to, you can expect to receive their full support.

PLANNING YOUR TRANSITION AT WORK

Once you have decided to come out at work we encourage you to discuss any plans you might have, and timelines, with your line manager and/or a member of Human Resources staff. The discussion would usually include consideration of:

- When you want colleagues to be informed
- What exactly you want people to know
- Whether you want to inform relevant people or for this to be done on your behalf
- How you want people to be informed e.g. in groups/individually, in person/ by email
- Any planned appointments you have and ways to minimise disruption in the workplace
- Any anxieties you may have about how to manage people's reactions
- Whether you would like to be allocated a named member of Human Resources staff to support you throughout your time at Essex
- Whether you would benefit from having a mentor who identifies as trans or non-binary

The timescales, activity and communication will be driven and led by you so if at any point during the discussion you decide you want to delay being open about your transition at work, any information you have already shared will be kept confidential, in line with your wishes.

---

[Cis] Someone whose gender identity is the same as the sex they were assigned at birth. Non-trans is also used by some people.
CHANGING YOUR DETAILS ON UNIVERSITY SYSTEMS

In order to change your name, your gender from one binary gender to another and/or title for use internally at the University e.g. on the Outlook address book, you need to provide your named HR contact (if you have one) or the Human Resources section (staffing@essex.ac.uk) with the relevant information. You do not need to have changed your name legally to do so.

Your name on HMRC (Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) and pension scheme records can only be changed if you have a legal document that proves a change of name e.g. a deed poll, a statutory declaration of name change.

Your gender on HMRC and pension scheme records can only be changed when you have a Gender Recognition Certificate⁹.

TIME OFF FOR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS/SURGERY

The University expects managers to support people to manage their own time and create a healthy work life balance in order to support a wellbeing culture. The University also recognises that trans staff may need significant periods of time off work as they progress through their transition and wants to be as flexible as possible in order to accommodate each individual’s needs.

Time off work to attend medical appointments related to your transition is paid in accordance with our Special Leave policy and therefore not classed as sickness absence. Where possible, you should arrange for the appointments to be scheduled at times that minimise disruption to your work commitments.

If you choose to have surgery the time you need to take off work for the surgery itself, and to recover, will be managed in line with our Supporting Health and Wellbeing at work policy. If the length of time you need off means that you run out of sick pay, you can discuss options with your manager, Occupational Health and your link Senior Employee Relations Adviser.

It is possible, for example, to have additional paid time off for procedures related to your transition. As a guide, we would expect managers to grant around five additional days of paid leave in any 12-month period.

It may also be possible to arrange a phased return to work (if you are deemed fit to do so) which involves working from home or changing duties for a specified period or to take a period of annual leave.

As soon as your record is changed, your new name and title will appear on the Outlook address book so is visible to all members of the community.

If you just want to record your gender as non-binary for university purposes, you could do so via HR Organiser.

⁹ Gender Recognition Certificate This enables trans people to be legally recognised in their affirmed gender and to be issued with a new birth certificate. Not all trans people will apply for a GRC and you currently have to be over 18 to apply. You do not need a GRC to change your gender markers at work or to legally change your gender on other documents such as your passport but you do need one to change your HMRC (Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs) and pension scheme records.
SECTION 2: SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE FOR MANAGERS

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

As a manager, you will play a vital role in supporting your trans or non-binary member of staff. You are responsible for:

- Ensuring that the information disclosed to you is used in accordance with the wishes of your member of staff and the law
- Working with your member of staff to plan relevant communications, changes to records, ways to minimise disruption in the workplace whilst being as flexible as possible
- Sharing information with others in accordance with the wishes of your member of staff
- Managing any changes within a team sensitively and effectively
- Supporting others to adjust to the changes and understand the needs of their colleague
- Addressing any repeated refusal to address your member of staff by their correct name and pronoun
- Challenging transphobic language, jokes, behaviour, assumptions and culture within your team/department/section, regardless of whether this is from employees or service users
- Ensuring that all your direct reports have completed their essential equality and diversity training, which includes content around trans equality and non-binary gender identity
- Where applicable, ensuring your member of staff is supplied with a uniform that is most appropriate for them

INITIAL DISCLOSURE

You may be told that a member of your staff is trans or non-binary directly by the individual themselves or by a third party e.g. a member of Human Resources staff where the individual has given permission for this information to be shared with you. As a supportive manager, you should refrain from making any assumptions or generalisations. Your role is to contribute to ensuring the experience is positive for both the individual and the working environment.
FORMULATING A PLAN

In order to both support the individual and minimise disruption in the workplace, you will need to work with your member of staff to plan their transition at work. This process must be led by the trans individual but you could use your coaching skills to support the individual in thinking through the process if that would be helpful to them.

During these discussions you should not ask intrusive, personal questions e.g. about any planned surgery, you should focus on what your member of staff needs from you in order for the process to be as smooth as possible at work. If you are unsure about whether a question is appropriate or not, it is probably best not to ask it.

Useful information:

- Your member of staff can bring a colleague, member of HR and/or a trade union representative to any meeting arranged to discuss their transition
- Not all trans people will have a plan in place for their transition and therefore may not be able to provide answers to some of your questions
- Plans may change as the individual progresses through their transition and you will need to be responsive to this
- You might find it helpful to record what you have agreed, but this is not required

ADDITIONAL AND ONGOING SUPPORT

In addition to this guidance, support is available from the following sources:

- Your link Senior Employee Relations Adviser in Human Resources
- The Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Peer support from other managers who have supported a trans or non-binary member of staff
- The LGBT Toolkit

Trans and non-binary staff, like other staff, need your continued support. You can do this by:

- Keeping an open channel of communication with your trans and non-binary member(s) of staff in order to ensure you can respond to any changes to their needs
- Supporting them to be part of University forums and networks that provide them with safe spaces to discuss their experiences (see Section 4 of this document)
- Equipping and empowering all your staff to combat transphobia if they see or hear it e.g. by encouraging them to attend Bystander Intervention training
SECTION 3: GUIDANCE FOR COLLEAGUES

Colleagues of trans and non-binary staff have a vital role to play in ensuring their experiences at work are positive. Transitioning is a deeply personal process but it is also unavoidably public as it is impossible not to notice when someone transitions from one gender to another.

Knowing what good support looks like can be a challenge and you are not expected to become an instant expert on trans or non-binary gender identity issues. These tips should help:

- **Keep your reactions to a minimum and listen.** Tell your colleague you will support them in every way you can but don’t ask intrusive questions, read the situation and consider what it might be appropriate to ask them. Your colleague will appreciate a positive response but will not want you to make a big deal of it.

- **Get their names and pronouns right.** An individual’s name and pronoun is central to their identity. If you’re not sure, it is fine to politely ask – this is much less awkward than getting it wrong and being corrected. If you do get it wrong, apologise and move on. Also be aware that names and pronouns may evolve over time.

- **Be their ally and address any inappropriate remarks or behaviours.** This is not just the responsibility of your trans or non-binary colleague or their manager – it’s everyone’s responsibility.

- **Do your own research.** Take some time to read about transitioning and non-binary gender identity in order to be better informed and a better ally. Stonewall, the Gender Identity Clinic and Mermaids are all good sources of information.

- **Treat your colleague as an individual.** All trans and non-binary people have different experiences and varying degrees of comfort talking about it. Respect their right to tell you only what they want you to know and follow their lead. Your colleague is not necessarily an expert in trans or non-binary gender identity issues, so avoid making this assumption.

- **Keep what your colleague tells you to yourself.** Just because your colleague has told you some specific things about their transition or gender identity does not necessarily mean they are happy for you to tell others. Leave it up to your colleague to share information with others.

💡 Mistakenly mis-gendering someone once or twice is acceptable. Repeatedly mis-gendering someone is not acceptable.
SECTION 4: LGBT+ FORUMS/NETWORKS

We have the following forums/networks:

- **LGBT+ Forum**: The Forum provides a safe space for LGBT+ staff to share experiences and resources, find peer support, and discuss current issues and upcoming events. The Forum also contributes to policy development in relation to LGBT+ related issues at the University.

- **Essex LGBT Alliance (ELGBTA)**: The ELGBTA is a network of Essex-based organisations who work together to share resources and best practice and promote LGBT+ inclusion for the benefit of everyone in the workplace.

- **LGBT+ Allies**: The Allies are a group of staff committed to ensuring the University is an inclusive and LGBT+ friendly environment.

SECTION 5: GUIDANCE FOR HUMAN RESOURCES STAFF

Members of Human Resources staff have a vital role to play in supporting trans and non-binary staff. Being able to respond fully, confidently and respectfully to the specific needs of trans and non-binary people, be they employees or potential employees, is critical to ensuring everyone HR staff interact with have a positive experience.

As part of our HR service, we offer all trans staff, including prospective and new staff, the option of having a named contact to support them throughout their time at Essex. This information should be recorded on the individual's electronic record.

RECRUITMENT

Sometimes the names on a trans person’s documentation e.g. passport, driving licence, birth certificate may not tally and in this situation, verifying right to work (RTW) documentation and evidence of qualifications or published work needs to be dealt with sensitively.

Reassure the individual that they can use the name and gender of their choice internally at the University and that the University will:

- only retain the information it requires in order to verify their RTW documentation and evidence to support their appointment
- hold their data securely and not share it
- respect their privacy by not asking unnecessary questions.

Be mindful that complying with HR processes is a daunting prospect for some trans staff.
RECORDS

Records of employees transitioning whilst at the University should be changed at a mutually agreed time following receipt of notification of a change of gender and name. No records should be changed without the permission of the employee concerned.

It is not necessary for an individual to provide a legal change of name e.g. a Deed Poll certificate, in order to change their gender and name for use internally at the University – written notification is sufficient.

An employee’s HMRC and pension scheme records can only be changed when relevant legal documentation is provided. A deed poll is sufficient for an individual’s name to be changed; in order for their gender to be changed, a Gender Recognition Certificate must be provided.

When the name on a staff record is changed, a new staff card should be issued. No reference should be made to an individual’s previous name or gender in any future communication with that person. Doing so can have a detrimental effect on a trans person’s mental health and can trigger anxiety, depression and gender dysphoria.

REFERENCES AND EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

References provided by the University for current or former staff who have transitioned must not refer to the person’s former name or gender and must use the appropriate pronoun.

If a prospective member of staff indicates in their application that they do not want the University to contact referees before interview, you should be mindful that this may be because they are trans and they have not informed their previous employer of their change of name and gender.

Once an individual whose referees were not contacted prior to interview has been conditionally offered a position, they should be contacted (by their named HR contact if they have one) to check whether they are happy for the University to go ahead and contact their referee(s) before proceeding.

If the references and/or evidence of educational qualifications received are in the individual’s previous name and gender, confidentiality must be respected and the information only used for its intended purpose.

PENSIONS

Only people with a full Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC) can have their pension records changed by HMRC or the occupational pension provider.

⚠️ Once you have changed an individual’s records, check to make sure it has changed everywhere you expect it to have changed.

10 Deadnaming Calling someone by their birth name after they have changed their name. This term is often associated with trans people who have changed their name as part of their transition.
ABSENCE

Absence from work or study in order to undergo any transition-related treatment should be treated in the same way as any other type of absence therefore normal sick pay arrangements apply. The normal policy relating to staff taking time off for medical appointments also applies and flexibility in taking holiday or rearranging working hours or academic commitments should be offered.

In addition, managers are expected to be flexible as possible in order to accommodate each individual's needs and, as a guide, should grant around five additional days of paid leave in any 12-month period for procedures related to transition.

DBS CHECKS

Trans people requiring a DBS check can choose to use the DBS's Confidential Checking Process which is in place for applicants who do not wish for the name or gender they were assigned at birth to be disclosed to the University. Individuals wishing to use this process should be advised to contact the Government's Sensitive Applications Team (SAT) and be made aware that they will still be required to send details of their previous legal identity directly in a separate correspondence to the SAT. The SAT can be contacted either by sending an email to sensitive@dbs.gov.uk or by calling 0151 676 1452.

If the individual chooses not to use the process and is happy for the name or gender they were assigned at birth to be disclosed on the completed Disclosure, then the individual can complete the Disclosure Application Form (DAF). More information can be found on the Galop web site.

VISAS

Staff who are working on a work permit or student visa must comply with any work permit/visa regulations, which relate specifically to name or gender change in order that their documentation remains valid.

International students who live in the UK can change their name and gender on records held by UK institutions but to update records held in their country of origin, such as passports, they need to follow their own country's procedure. The appropriate Embassy or High Commission may be able to provide further advice on how individuals can change their names. Students with Tier 4 visas are required to report a legal name change to the UK Visa and Immigration authorities.

 Managers of trans staff should be encouraged to create the kind of environment in which all staff feel safe and supported. This includes supporting them in being as flexible as possible whilst minimising workplace disruption.
SECTION 6: AN OVERVIEW OF TRANSITIONING

Transitioning is a term used to describe the process and steps an individual takes in order to live in the gender they identify as.

Transitioning is a unique process for each individual and may include any number of changes to a person’s life. There is no ‘right’ or ‘wrong’ way to transition. For some this involves medical intervention, such as hormone therapy and surgery, but not all trans people want or are able to have this. There may be a variety of reasons including cost, time or simply not feeling the need to.

Transitioning could also involve dressing differently, changing official documents, telling friends and family that you are transitioning, or a number of other things. The start of or intent to transition will be different for everyone. It is about the individual.

After an individual transitions they may not identify as trans; they may simply see the process as being part of their past and not current identity. For example, an individual who has transitioned and identifies as female, may refer to herself as a woman, not a trans woman\textsuperscript{11}. This personal decision should be respected at all times and only communicated as necessary.

Many people falsely believe that in order to transition a person must undergo a medical intervention, such as hormone treatment or surgery, or gain a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC).

It should not be assumed that the goal of every individual's transition is to change their physiology or legal gender. If a trans person chooses not to undergo any medical intervention or gain a GRC, they are still entitled to dignity and respect along their chosen path of transition, whatever that may consist of.

\textsuperscript{11}Passing If someone is regarded, at a glance, to be a cisgender man or cisgender woman. Cisgender refers to someone whose gender identity matches the sex they were ‘assigned’ at birth. This might include physical gender cues (hair or clothing) and/or behaviour which is historically or culturally associated with a particular gender.
SECTION 7: DEFINITIONS AND TERMINOLOGY

AFAB/AMAB
(assigned female at birth/assigned male at birth)
These terms are used as shorthand to designate a gender assigned at birth. A wide range of individuals, including those who are transgender, non-binary, or intersex, uses the terms. They are generally not considered identities in and of themselves, so you should use a person's requested pronouns and self-description.

Agender
A term to describe someone who is without gender. It can be either a non-binary gender identity or not having a gender identity.

Ally
Someone who actively supports those with identities that differ from theirs. Allies confront discrimination of trans and non-binary people.

Cis
Someone whose gender identity is the same as the sex they were assigned at birth. Non-trans is also used by some people.

Coming out
May refer to the process by which one accepts one's own gender identity. May also refer to the process by which one discloses these identities to others. This is an ongoing process, and an individual will repeatedly disclose their identity at different multiple times and to different groups of people throughout their life.

Deadnaming
Calling someone by their birth name after they have changed their name. This term is often associated with trans people who have changed their name as part of their transition.

Discrimination
The unjust or prejudicial treatment of a person or group of people based on who they are or because they possess certain characteristics. This can take many forms, including both individual acts of hatred or injustice, and institutional denials of privileges normally accorded to other groups.

Gender
Often expressed in terms of femininity and masculinity, it is largely culturally determined and is assumed from the sex assigned at birth. It can be defined as an experience of, and identity with, culturally-defined roles on a spectrum between male and female.

Gender Binary
The idea that there are only two genders—female/male or woman/man, and that a person must be strictly gendered as either/or.

Gender Fluid
This term denotes or is related to a person who does not have fixed gender.

Gender Identity
A person's innate sense of their own gender, which may or may not correspond to the sex assigned at birth.

Gender Role
The behaviours, values, and attitudes that a society considers appropriate for genders.

Genderqueer
A gender diverse person whose gender identity is neither female nor male, is between or beyond genders, or is some combination of genders. This identity is usually related to, or in reaction to, the social construction of gender, gender stereotypes and the gender binary system.

12 The Equality Act 2010 protects people from discrimination on the basis of nine ‘protected characteristics’: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. The University goes beyond legislation and has a zero tolerance approach to harassment (a form of discrimination) in any form, regardless of whether it relates to a protected characteristic or not.
Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC)
This enables trans people to be legally recognised in their affirmed gender and to be issued with a new birth certificate. Not all trans people will apply for a GRC and you currently have to be over 18 to apply. You do not need a GRC to change your gender markers at work or to legally change your gender on other documents such as your passport but you do need one to change your HMRC (Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs) and pension scheme records.

Intersex
A term used to describe a person who may have the biological attributes of both sexes or whose biological attributes do not fit with societal assumptions about what constitutes male or female. Intersex people may be female, male, gender-fluid, agender or non-binary.

Outed
When someone’s trans status or gender identity is disclosed to someone else without their consent.

LGBT+
The acronym we choose to use at the University for lesbian, gay, bi, trans and related communities. The PLUS (+) in ensures that we are inclusive of all identities to make our community feel welcomed and that nobody is left out.

Non-Binary
An umbrella term for people whose gender identity doesn’t sit comfortably with ‘woman’ or ‘man’. Non-binary identities are varied and can include people who identify with some aspects of binary identities, while others reject them entirely.

Passing
If someone is regarded, at a glance, to be a cisgender man or cisgender woman. Cisgender refers to someone whose gender identity matches the sex they were ‘assigned’ at birth. This might include physical gender cues (hair or clothing) and/or behaviour which is historically or culturally associated with a particular gender.

Preferred pronoun
The pronoun a person chooses to use for themselves. You should always refer to someone in the pronoun they have chosen.

Pronoun
Words we use to refer to people’s gender in conversation - for example, ‘she’, ‘he’, ‘ze’ or ‘they’.

Queer
In the past a derogatory term for LGBT+ individuals. The term has now been reclaimed by LGBT+ young people in particular who reject traditional categories around gender identity and sexual orientation, but is still viewed to be derogatory by some.

Questioning
The process of exploring your own sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Sex
Assigned to a person on the basis of primary sex characteristics (genitalia) and reproductive functions.

Stereotype
A widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing without regard for their individual differences. Though often negative, can also be complimentary. Even positive variants can have a negative impact, however, simply because they involve broad generalizations that ignore individual realities.

Trans
An umbrella term to describe people whose gender is not the same as, or does not sit comfortably with, the sex they were assigned at birth.

Transgender man
A term used to describe someone who is assigned female at birth but lives as a man. This may be shortened to trans man.

Transgender woman
A term used to describe someone who is assigned male at birth but lives as a woman. This may be shortened to trans woman.

Transsexual
This was used in the past as a more medical term (similarly to homosexual) to refer to someone whose gender is not the same as, or does not sit comfortably with, the sex they were assigned at birth. This term is still used by some although many people prefer the term trans or transgender.
**Transitioning**
The steps a trans person may take to express or affirm their gender. For some this involves medical intervention, such as hormone therapy and surgeries, but not all trans people want or are able to have this. It might also involve things such as telling friends and family, dressing differently and changing official documents.

**Transphobia**
The fear or dislike of someone based on the fact they are trans, including the denial/refusal to accept their gender identity.