



Information Services

Birkbeck Information Security Policy

Supporting Policy 6: Birkbeck Wireless Network Policy

Approved by Strategic Planning Committee

4 July 2022

0. Context

This policy forms part of the Birkbeck IT Regulations. For more information, contact Birkbeck IT Services, a link to their contact details is available on the Birkbeck IT Regulations page.

1. Introduction

A number of Wireless (Wifi) Access Points are available in Birkbeck for the connection of equipment being used by staff and students in the College. In addition, a guest wireless service is available for authorised visitors affiliated to Birkbeck. The objectives of this policy are to clarify responsibilities of users when using these services.

This policy applies to all wireless network devices utilising Birkbeck IP address space and all users of such devices.

All users of the Birkbeck Wireless Network must accept the conditions of use contained within this policy, and other applicable policies within Birkbeck IT Regulations.

2. Using the Wireless Network at Birkbeck

- eduroam is the supported WiFi network for staff and students.
- Birkbeck will not accept responsibility or liability for any damage or loss of data to any machine while in transit or connected to the Birkbeck network.

- A valid IT account (username and password) is required to use the wireless and fixed network.
- All IP addresses for the Birkbeck Wireless and Mobile network will be assigned by a DHCP service maintained by ITS for College-wide services.
- Access to central, ITS-managed filestore or other restricted services, will be available via VPN only.
- Any breach of regulations must be reported to the Head of Information Security (infosec@bbk.ac.uk). In more serious or repeated minor cases, a breach of regulations may be dealt with under the Birkbeck's disciplinary procedures.

3. Responsibilities of users

- Users are responsible at all times for the security of their accounts, passwords, data and system.
- A user will be held responsible for any breach of regulations carried out using a connection authenticated with their username. This includes action taken by others.
- Users must not attempt to authenticate using another person's or organisation's credentials.
- Users must not do anything that interferes with the operation of the wireless service. This includes using an unfair or excessive share of the available network bandwidth.
- It is illegal and against Birkbeck regulations to copy or share movies, music, software and other copyrighted material without permission from the copyright holder. Users must not do this, whether intentionally or arising from a failure to correctly configure a file sharing program on your computer.
- Users should use secure applications where possible, including but not restricted to HTTPS, SSH, SFTP.
- Users must not tamper with, install or operate Wireless Access Points.
- Users must not allow equipment to act as a server of any kind.
- Users must not invent network settings or host identities.
- Users must not transfer network settings or host identities from one College machine to another.
- Users are responsible for any equipment connected to the system and for ensuring that it is in good working condition, and will therefore not present a health and safety risk to people or College property.
- Users should ensure that operating systems are patched up to date.
- Users should ensure that systems have up to date anti-virus software installed and regularly updated.
- The use of the VPN service is recommended.
- The use of a personal firewall product is recommended.
- Users should report areas of poor wireless signal strength to allow us to extend coverage where needed.
- Users must ensure that any equipment connected to the Service is not used for monitoring network traffic.

- Users must not attempt to bypass network security or run any software designed to open unauthorised channels through the firewall. This includes but is not limited to software designed to tunnel traffic through HTTP proxies.
- Users must accept and agree that a breach of the above terms may result in immediate withdrawal of access to the Service.

4. Guest/Visitor Services

- Guests and visitors from other organisations participating in eduroam are expected to use eduroam credentials provided by their home institution.
- Other Guest/Visitor accounts are available to visitors to the College operating on Birkbeck business and sponsored by a Birkbeck member of staff.
- Guest/Visitor accounts typically last between 1 and 5 days.
- All user responsibilities stated above apply to Visitors/Guests.

5. Authority and responsibility

- IT Services (ITS) has overall responsibility for Birkbeck's data communications and telephone infrastructure. ITS will therefore be responsible for the deployment, management and support of all wireless local area networks on Birkbeck premises.
- No wireless LAN equipment (access points, bridges, etc) that is not under the direct supervision of ITS may be attached to Birkbeck's network. If Schools or research groups have teaching or research requirements involving wireless LANs that cannot be satisfied via central provision they may seek approval from the ITS Systems and Networking Team, or nominated individuals within Schools, to deploy wireless LANs in areas for which they have sole responsibility and a legitimate teaching or research requirement.
- All Access Points and wireless client adapters on the Birkbeck Wireless LAN will use Service Set Identifiers (SSIDs) maintained by ITS.
- IT Services reserves the right to firewall and restrict certain network traffic for the purpose of ensuring the security of Birkbeck networks.
- ITS reserve the right to suspend access to the wireless network by any user in breach of this or other Birkbeck policy.

6. Version Control

Version	Date	Author	Comments
1.0	Existing	Unknown	Existing Policy
1.1	26 October 2020	Reviewed by Abu Hossain	Content rearranged. Minor edit. Links and references updated.

1.2	29 April 2020	Reviewed by Abu Hossain	Added context section.
1.3	16 February 2022	Reviewed by Marion Rosenberg	Minor edits and comments on meaning