

***Dear friends, previous colleagues and allies in my professional network,***

I am writing to request urgent professional support regarding **systematic targeting** and **procedural irregularities** I am experiencing within the **University of Sheffield**. I am seeking assistance from anyone willing to provide advocacy, professional guidance or other forms of discretionary support during this challenging period. Support requested:

1. **Academic References:** Supportive and strong letters of recommendation documenting my general academic capabilities and research competencies so I may continue my professional pursuits by applying to other programs.
2. **Faculty Documentation:** For current university faculty, I am requesting vigilant monitoring of dates and the digitized internal documentation of any directives or communications (**especially verbal ones**) concerning my academic work from the following individuals:
  - a. Emma Norling (“Director of Education”)
  - b. Heidi Christensen (“Head of school”) Or,
  - c. any of their reports such as non-academic staff (including com-teaching/administrative staff).
3. **Legal Representation:** Referrals to solicitors with experience in English university-student disputes.

I am currently enrolled in the Master's program in Artificial Intelligence at the University of Sheffield. Core modules within this program - specifically Text Processing and Natural Language Processing - demonstrated significant deficiencies in academic delivery and instructional quality issues. These issues prompted a formal group complaint by several affected students - one of which I am the “group leader”. The school staff began to take retaliatory measures promptly after the complaint. These have included:

- Inappropriate surveillance of my social media profile immediately following the initiation of the complaints procedure by school leadership.
- Unilateral **modification of previously approved disability accommodations made following escalations within the complaints procedure** for another module (COM6509).
- Unacademic judgment made on my submitted coursework for NLP (COM6513).

The delivery of Text Processing and NLP courses had major issues that the school leadership, staff such as academic tutors were made aware of by students. Tutors and staff did not take any measures to correct errors and delivery issues and the negative impact on students. Often, they refused to transparently provide marking breakdowns of students' own submitted work.

The issues included the following (with substantial documented evidence provided to the school):

Erroneous and inconsistent communication regarding examination syllabi and assessment guidelines and inadequate instructional support – including instructor absences from scheduled lectures and laboratories and/or exclusively performative delivery amongst others.

The issues have impacted students with disabilities and international students who relocated specifically to study these core modules *disproportionately*. As a member of this especially vulnerable group, I was also charged significantly higher tuition fees for participation in the program in the first place and then experienced discriminatory commentary - about my *ethnic background* and professional motivations.

*Course module surveys* to get student feedback are *administered inappropriately* - often conducted mid-module or *prior even to module initiation*. Student experiences in these surveys are therefore *disconnected from the ground truth* where core courses with 200 enrolled students frequently had attendance as low as < 15%.

The *issues* with the staff and program have been ongoing with *no resolution in-sight* since *November 2024*. There is an *increasing breakdown* in process in the form of *and escalating retaliatory measures* by the school.

In spite of the *litigation distress* caused by these issues, I successfully retained *good grades* by going above and beyond and with careful planning in my academic efforts. I am therefore requesting *voluntary letters of reference* that can speak to my professional caliber and integrity as I'm building my career *in a field I remain deeply passionate about*.

The *request for internal documentation by UoS staff* is *especially critical* to record the sequence in which measures are being taken by the school staff. I have been informed by some staff that several communications *about the issues and me are consciously occurring exclusively verbally off email*. In these instances, the staff's actions remain inappropriately undocumented.

I respectfully request your consideration and any support you may be able to provide during this dispute and distressing experience. Your assistance and support is greatly appreciated. I can be contacted at [mskjain5@gmail.com](mailto:mskjain5@gmail.com).

I appreciate your consideration.

Tara Khushboo Jain