



# Student Support Quick Guide: A student is a victim of crime

## What should you look out for?

It is possible that at some point a student will approach you looking for support as a victim of crime. A student might, for example, share with you the fact that they were a victim recently and have not yet reported this to anyone, or they might tell you that they are finding it difficult to cope with the after-effects of a crime that happened some time ago. Even crimes experienced some time in the past can have a significant effect on a student's day-to-day life and studies.

## What should you do?

In most cases, when a person is a victim of crime, it is their decision as to whether or not to report that crime. This can be a difficult decision. If a student tells you about a crime they have experienced which they have not reported, seek to ensure that the student has the support they need to think through their next steps.

The university [Safeguarding Team](#) can offer support to consider reporting options, and to ensure the student knows where to find support. [Victim Support Scotland](#) can also offer support to victims of crime.

After experiencing a crime, people can be affected in different ways:

- If you feel that a student's experience of crime is having a significant effect on their mental wellbeing, refer the student to [the University's Counselling & Mental Wellbeing service](#) (see separate Quick Guide entitled 'When a student has a mental health or emotional difficulty:')

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- You can also signpost to [Victim Support Scotland](#), an organisation offering guidance and support to victims of Crime. Personal development tutors and other members of academic staff are not expected to take on roles that should rightly be delivered by specialists such as counsellors or the Safeguarding team. If, at any point, you feel you need to seek advice and support from specialist services, please contact Counselling & Mental Wellbeing at [counselling@napier.ac.uk](mailto:counselling@napier.ac.uk)


### What happens next?

- If the crime has just occurred, please contact university Security (0131 455 6119 or emergency number 4444). You can also make use of the [SafeZone app](#) emergency button which immediately alerts the University security team. The University's Security Team are experienced in responding to serious crimes and liaising with the emergency services. The security team can also assist in putting in place safety measures if this is appropriate.
- If the student would like to talk to someone about their experience, or you feel it would be beneficial, refer the student to university Safeguarding Team. They can do this by emailing [safeguarding@napier.ac.uk](mailto:safeguarding@napier.ac.uk), or you can refer them directly to the team if they consent to this. You can also consult our [Student Support Quick Guide on 'When a student has a mental health or emotional difficulty'](#).

What happens next will depend on the circumstances of the case in question. Referring students to [Wellbeing and Inclusion team](#) for ongoing support will ensure that the student receives the help they need.

To coordinate our response to a serious allegation (e.g. a safeguarding concern) or crime, the University will may hold a case conference (generally chaired by Safeguarding Team, involving relevant service and / or school representatives) to agree a way forward.

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For further information or to provide feedback about this Quick Guide, please [contact dlte@napier.ac.uk](mailto:contactdlte@napier.ac.uk)

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