Managerial Safety Vision 2015-2018: Guiding Principles

1. Safety is a shared responsibility

In principle, staff, students and guests connected to our university are responsible for their own safety, as well as that of others. Final responsibility for their safety and security, however, lies with the Executive Board. The individual faculties and service departments also share in this responsibility, where it pertains to their own domains.

2. We have a broad duty of care

VU Amsterdam accepts a broad duty of care for the safety and security of its students, staff and guests – in short, anyone connected to VU Amsterdam through their studies, research or employment, anywhere in the world.

3. We promote a safety culture and safety awareness, providing a clear framework for action

VU Amsterdam actively promotes and maintains a healthy and robust safety culture. The Executive Board, the Deans and the directors function as role models in this regard. We are committed to raising the level of safety awareness among all our students, staff and guests, ensuring that it meets the required standards. We also aim to ensure that everyone knows how to act in the event of an emergency, by providing a clear framework for action. We want all our staff (and students) to be aware of how VU Amsterdam deals with safety incidents, and to know where they can go for support.

4. We are proactive and risk-driven

VU Amsterdam actively works to identify, prevent and mitigate safety risks, incidents and crises. Our safety and security policy naturally takes the human dimension into account, as well as academic values and privacy concerns. Our safety and security policy does not place an undue burden on the openness and hospitality of our university.

5. Our safety and security policy is fully integrated, cohesive, transparent and manageable

VU Amsterdam’s safety and security policy is fully integrated into our organizational structure. This means it takes into account a wide variety of different interests, disciplines, levels and people. It is based on clearly defined norms, goals and timelines.

6. Being well-prepared, we handle incidents effectively

We realize that some risks can never be fully contained. That is why we continue to invest in the resilience of our organization and our staff – to limit the impact of incidents, calamities and crises, as well as to enable a quick recovery. We provide all our staff with the necessary drills and training, ensuring that they know what is expected of them.