



Assistance Animals Policy

An assistance animal is an animal that has been specially trained to carry out tasks or provide support for an individual with a disability. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Guide dogs for individuals with visual impairments
- Hearing dogs for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Assistance dogs trained to support individuals with physical disabilities
- Medical alert dogs
- Autism assistance dogs

Therapy animals, emotional-support animals, or pets that are not formally trained do not fall under this definition unless stated otherwise by law or organisational exceptions.

Assistance animals are welcome at all UCISA events, unless doing so would create a legitimate safety or health concern.

What are the responsibilities of handlers?

Handlers must ensure:

- The animal is harnessed, leashed, or tethered unless these interfere with its duties
- The animal remains under control at all times
- The animal is clean, vaccinated, and well-behaved
- Any mess caused by the animal is cleaned promptly

Where an animal becomes disruptive or poses a safety risk, UCISA may request that it be removed, though the attendee will still be offered full access without the animal.

What are the responsibilities of UCISA?

UCISA staff along with the event venue staff may:

- Ask whether the animal is required due to a disability
- Ask what tasks the animal is trained to perform

They may not request documentation, certification, or proof of training, nor ask the handler to demonstrate the animal's abilities.

What happens if another event attendee has allergies and/or phobias?

If another attendee reports an allergy or phobia, UCISA will take reasonable steps to separate or relocate individuals as needed to ensure everyone's comfort.

What hygiene facilities and amenities are available on-site for assistance animals during UCISA events?

We will do our best to share information about assistance-animal relief areas ahead of time or when you arrive. If your animal needs water, just let us know—we're happy to provide a bowl.

I intend to bring my assistance animal—what requirements should I be aware of?

If you're planning to bring an assistance animal, you don't have to share this with us — but if you feel comfortable doing so, please let our events team know at events@ucisa.ac.uk. This helps us include it in our risk assessment and ensure we have the right adjustments in place so you can enjoy the best possible experience at the event.