

Drug and Alcohol Policy (Students)

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UNIVERSITY OF
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Summary/Description:	
This document defines the approach the University will take in managing the misuse of any drug and/or alcohol by any student studying or registered at the University of Winchester.	

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The University is committed to maintaining a safe, professional, working and learning environment whilst recognising that the misuse of alcohol and drugs will play a part in the lives of some people and will be empathic to problems arising from the misuse of these substances whilst not condoning such misuse. The University also recognises the risks and problems alcohol can cause to all students and staff and the national concern for binge drinking, especially amongst 18-24 year olds.
- 1.2 In this Policy 'Student' means any student studying or registered at the University, irrespective of physical location.
- 1.3 Students enrolled on specific professional medical, teaching and education programmes of study will be subject to the University's Fitness to Practice Policy, the terms of which will always prevail over this Drugs and Alcohol Policy (Students).
- 1.4 In this Policy 'Drug' refers to any drug and as appropriate other substance, legal or illegal, which could adversely affect behaviour, performance, health, wellbeing, conduct or judgement and could lead to increased risk of accident, injury or other misadventure.
- 1.5 The University has a commitment to enhancing the health, safety and wellbeing of students and recognizes the risk that may be caused by the misuse of alcohol, drugs and other substances.
- 1.6 The University does not condone the misuse of drugs or alcohol, and will take a balanced and proportionate approach to the application of disciplinary policy and provision of appropriate support for students who misuse them. In order to achieve this, the University applies the principle of Zero Tolerance in the definition that action in the scope of Sections 2, 3, 4, 5 of this policy will always be taken in all cases of drug, substance and alcohol misuse. Such action will be determined through the proper exercise of professional judgement and will be balanced and proportionate. This action-based approach will always be taken with the best interests of the student and the student community in mind.
- 1.7 This Policy aims to facilitate the early identification of problems with drug, substance and alcohol misuse and to encourage and enable students to seek advice, help and assistance voluntarily before their personal well-being and studies are adversely affected. The University will achieve this through educational, counselling and disciplinary approaches and appropriate staff will provide guidance as to where professional assistance is available. This process requires the engagement of the student.
- 1.8 For clarity, acknowledgement by a student of a drug or alcohol misuse problem will not in itself be a cause for disciplinary action. Equally, a student's request for advice, help and assistance will not mean that disciplinary action cannot be applied where the University regards it as appropriate to do so. See Appendix B

2. Legal Context

- 2.1 The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 regulates the law relating to dangerous and harmful drugs and makes it clear that it is an offence for 'the occupier or someone concerned in the management of any premises knowingly to permit or suffer on

those premises the smoking of cannabis; or the production, attempted production, supply, attempted supply, or offering to supply of any controlled drug'.

- 2.2 The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 requires the University to do what is reasonable to protect the health and safety of staff, students and visitors. Drug and alcohol misuse can have an impact on the health and safety of an individual and others, for example students in shared accommodation or staff are required to handle illegal substances and drug-related paraphernalia.
- 2.3 The University has a responsibility to uphold the law. Students who contravene the legislation outlined above, will be subject to disciplinary action by the institution and this will include reporting incidents to the Police.

3. Application of the Policy

- 3.1 An Information Sharing Agreement exists between the University of Winchester and Hampshire Constabulary. The Agreement ensures that the correct procedure is followed when activities involving illegal substances occur.
- 3.2 Where there is physical evidence of illegal substances being or having been used on campus (including Student Union operated spaces or events) and/or in University managed accommodation (on and off campus) or approved nominated University partner accommodation, the University Security Manager will be informed and will remove and secure the evidence for safekeeping. The Security Manager has a legal obligation under the Information Sharing Agreement to report all such cases immediately to the Police and to hand over any evidence, which has been removed for safekeeping. The Security Manager will also inform Student Services, Head of Housing & Security, the Health, Safety and Business Continuity Manager, the Director of Estates and Facilities Services, Academic Registrar and the Student Union General Manager.
- 3.3 The Security Manager has the power to search (or instruct a member of the Security Team to search) University premises, including individual student study bedrooms, where there are reasonable grounds to consider illegal activities are taking place. Searches will be carried out by Security staff in the presence of the resident student. If the student is not present, the University still has the right to access the room if there are reasonable grounds to consider that illegal activities are taking place and/or there is a risk to life.
- 3.4 Where breaches of the Conduct Policy for Students are alleged, action may be taken under the Disciplinary Procedures for Students. Where appropriate, action may additionally, or alternately, be taken under other University policies and procedures.
- 3.5 Where students are living in University accommodation, their accommodation contract specifically prohibits the misuse of drugs on University premises. Students who fail to comply with the terms of the contract may be served a 'Notice to Quit'. Support to find alternative accommodation in the private sector can be provided by the University Housing Team. Procedures undertaken by the Housing

Team will always be consistent with the University's action-based approach to Zero Tolerance.

4. Help and Advice

4.1 The University regards dependency on either drugs or alcohol as a health problem and will approach concerns (such as students disclosing substance misuse problems, or when following up on suspected substance misuse) from this perspective.

- Appropriate staff within the University (such as Student Services' staff, Housing or the Faculty Wellbeing, Employability Tutors and Student Union Adviser) will support students in referring to appropriate services, such as the student's GP and specialist substance misuse services.
- In acknowledging the likely comorbidities between substance misuse and mental health difficulties, staff within Student Services may provide support to students alongside specialist services where appropriate, or act as a liaison between the student, external services and the University.
- The University will seek to increase information pertaining to specialist services for students with the aim of making it easier for students to access appropriate information, advice and guidance.

5. Education

5.1 The University will increase awareness and understanding of drug and alcohol related issues in a number of ways:

- The University will produce materials to raise student awareness of the risks associated with drug and alcohol misuse, to promote harm minimisation and increase student knowledge of services within and external to the University to provide help for substance misuse concerns.
- The University will raise awareness of the wider-community impact of substance misuse and possible outcomes in terms of criminal punishment (for example, for distribution of drugs or possession of drugs).
- Training will be provided to relevant staff – Security, Student Services, Housing (including Wardens and Residential Assistants) and Faculty Wellbeing and Employability Tutors and other relevant staff.
- The Police and drugs specialists will be invited onto campus to give interactive presentations at Freshers' events and other appropriate forums.

Appendix A

Under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, illegal drugs are placed into one of 3 classes – A, B or C. This is broadly based on the harm they cause either to the user or to society when they are misused.

Under the Misuse of Drugs Act, it is an offence:

- to unlawfully possess a controlled drug
- to possess a controlled drug with intent to supply it
- to unlawfully supply (sell/give/share) a controlled drug
- to allow premises you occupy or manage to be used for smoking or use of drugs

The class into which a drug is placed affects the maximum penalty for an offence involving the drug. For example, Class A drugs attract the most severe penalty as they are considered likely to cause the most serious harm. Drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act are illegal to possess, produce, give away or sell.

Class	Drug	Possession	Supply & Production
A	Crack cocaine, cocaine, ecstasy (MDMA), heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, methadone, methamphetamine (Crystal Meth)	Up to 7 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both	Up to life in prison, an unlimited fine or both
B	Amphetamines, barbiturates, cannabis, codeine, methylphenidate (Ritalin), synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones (e.g. mephedrone, methoxetamine), ketamine	Up to 5 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both	Up to 14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both
C	Anabolic steroids, benzodiazepines (diazepam) gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), gamma-butyrolactone (GBL), piperazines (BZP), khat	Up to 2 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both	Up to 14 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both

Not all drugs are illegal, but their status in law doesn't mean they aren't harmful. For example, tobacco and alcohol can seriously damage a person's health.

The Psychoactive Substances Act came into force on 26th May 2016 and enforces a blanket ban on the production, distribution, sale and supply of 'legal highs' intended for human consumption. It is an offence to sell or to give psychoactive substances for free to any other person/s, including friends and family members.

There are a large number of legal highs and they can have all kinds of names, some include: Benzo Further, 5-IAI, MDAT, Spice, Sence, Magic, Salvia Divinorum, Party Pills, Kratom, GBL, BZP, Raz, Charge, Snow Blow, Happy Caps, Blessed, Diablo, Doves, Summer Haze, Pep Pills, A2, Nemesis, Frenzy and Legal E.

Some drugs do have a legitimate use, as a medicine, in research or in industry. To use, import, sell or produce these drugs you must obtain a licence from the Home Office.

The Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 allows for the lawful possession and supply of controlled (illegal) drugs for legitimate purposes. They cover prescribing, administering, safe custody, dispensing, record keeping, destruction and disposal of controlled drugs to prevent diversion for misuse.

The information contained in Appendix A was current on the date of policy approval

Appendix B

Reach OUT

**Get support for yourself
Concerned about a friend?**

Support & Help Information

Student Services:

T: 01962 827341

E: studentservreception@winchester.ac.uk

student.advice@winchester.ac.uk (Student Life team)

mentalwellbeing@winchester.ac.uk (counselling & mental health)

or drop into the Zone

Speak to your Faculty Wellbeing and
Employability Tutors

Security/Site Stewards:

T: 01962 827666 on call 24/7
with

E: security@winchester.ac.uk

Student Union:

T: 01962 827418

E: su.advice@winchester.ac.uk

For a hub of information and access to
enquiry form to book an appointment

an adviser:

www.winchesterstudents.co.uk/advice

or pop into the Student Union offices on
Level 3 of the King Alfred Centre