



POLICY ON DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

FOREWORD

It is a **criminal offence** to deal in (sell or supply) illegal drugs or to be concerned in the sale or supply of illegal drugs.

It is a **criminal offence** to possess or use illegal drugs.

The University will expel any student who is dealing in illegal drugs.

The University does not tolerate the use of drugs on campus or in accommodation and will take action against student users in accordance with the Policy attached.

The University will exercise its right to inspect student accommodation at any time. Drug use will be reported. Any evidence of drug use or dealing may be given to the police. Students' clothing and/or bags may also be subject to search if there is reason to believe evidence of drug use or possession may be found. Remember: you are responsible for the contents of your room, bag or clothing.

The University does not tolerate violent or dangerous behaviour by students. Being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs is no defence to bad behaviour.



POLICY ON DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

This policy is based on the principles of **EDUCATION, CARE** and **DISCIPLINE**. It seeks to apply these principles in order to minimise the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol.

The policy recognises the importance of maintaining a safe environment for all members of the University and that the possession of or dealing in illegal drugs is a criminal offence.

It also recognises that, although moderate alcohol consumption has a place in many areas of society, alcohol abuse may have a serious adverse effect upon any individual's well being.

Legal Background

This Policy is necessary in order to ensure the University's compliance with the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, as amended by subsequent legislation. The University's duty to uphold the law may require the University to report students to the police.

Discipline

Dealing in Illegal Drugs

Dealing (selling or supplying) **in illegal drugs** is not only a **criminal offence** but is also regarded as an extremely serious breach of the University's disciplinary regulations (see Rule 7.1 of the General Regulations for Students of the University) under which appropriate action shall be taken, **in addition to any penalty imposed by the criminal law**.

University staff (or students) having **clear evidence** that any student is **dealing** in controlled drugs should report that student to the Senior Tutor's office as soon as possible.

A student suspected of **dealing in ANY illegal drugs shall be reported to the police**. The University will presume that a student is dealing or supplying if that student is in possession of equipment,

materials or paraphernalia suitable for recording drug-related transactions and/or distributing drugs to others. The Senior Tutor may recommend, to the Vice-Chancellor, the immediate **suspension** (pending further investigation and/or outcome of criminal proceedings) or **expulsion** from the University of a student believed to be dealing or supplying illegal drugs (see Rule 9.6 of the General Regulations for Students of the University).

The normal penalty exercised by the University against any student found guilty of dealing in illegal drugs, is expulsion from the University (see Rule 7.9 of the General Regulations for Students of the University).

Violent and/or Dangerous Behaviour

The University will not tolerate any alcohol-related or drug-related behaviour on the part of any student that endangers the health, safety or well being of other students, staff or University property, and will also consider all such incidents as extremely serious breaches of the University's disciplinary regulations.

Being drunk or 'high' is no defence against breaches of University rules. Disciplinary action will include exclusion from some or all University premises and University events.

Possession of Illegal Drugs

Members of Accommodation staff have the right of entry to student rooms and will report suspected drug use to the Senior Tutor. The University will then exercise its right to search a room and will confiscate and record any evidence of involvement with drugs. The evidence confiscated may be passed to the Police.

A member of University staff having **reason to believe** that any student is **using** illegal drugs, should advise that student to seek appropriate help from the Student Welfare Department, and should also refer the student to the Senior Tutor and inform the student that they are doing so.

A student in possession of illegal drugs or other prohibited substances is liable to be expelled from the University. In exceptional circumstances a student may be permitted to continue his/her studies, but shall be required to undertake and to engage with an appropriate course of medical treatment and/or programme of counselling (see Regulation 7.4 of the General Regulations for Students of the University). Treatment and/or counselling may include periodic testing for drugs.

If evidence of drug use (including paraphernalia, which is not permitted on campus even if in an unused condition) **is found in a student's room or in a student's possession**, that student may be given notice to quit University accommodation and is also liable to immediate expulsion from the University. A student may also be banned from entering the Tanlaw Mill and/or attending University-organised social events. **The Senior Tutor may also report the student to the police.**

A student who unreasonably fails or refuses to undertake appropriate treatment/counselling may be liable to immediate expulsion from the University (see Rule 9.6 of the General Regulations for Students of the University).

'Legal Highs'

A so-called "**legal high**" is **anything that can be used like a drug** but which is not actually banned by UK law. Often, the Government will be taking action to ban the substance in question. However, in the interests of student welfare, **the University reserves the right to ban any substance from the campus** and to treat possession as a very serious disciplinary offence, **regardless** of whether or not it is currently illegal to have that substance in your possession. The burden of proving that anything suspicious is **not** unlawful shall rest with the student (**e.g.** to produce a prescription for tablets if these are regarded as suspicious). The University will treat possession or supply of Nitrous Oxide, Synthetic Cannabinoids or synthetic derivatives of Cathinone in the same way as the possession or supply of illegal drugs.

Alcohol: Students aged under 18

Students aged under 18 must not buy, or attempt to buy, or drink alcohol on University premises. You risk receiving a criminal record and being banned from all University social events until your 18th Birthday.

It is a criminal offence for anyone aged over 18 to buy, or to attempt to buy, alcohol for any person who is aged under 18 years. The local Police regularly patrol shops which sell alcohol in order to catch people who break this law.

Education

The University is committed to raising awareness of the possible consequences to health of the use of illegal drugs and other substances, including prescribed drugs and alcohol. So-called "legal highs" (anything which can be used like a drug) may be **extremely harmful** and may therefore be banned from campus (see above). The Student Welfare Department can also direct students to

specialist advisory services such as the local Community Drug & Alcohol Team and FRANK (www.talktofrank.com). Specialist advice and information available to students covers safe drinking habits; the adverse effects of alcohol; alternatives to alcohol; the types of drug students may encounter and their associated dangers; and skills to enable students to cope with the social pressures of alcohol and to avoid personal involvement in drug use.

Care

The University may recommend (or require) that students approach the University Surgery and/or the local Community Drug & Alcohol Team for assistance. Appointments can be made through the Department of Student Welfare. Students can be assured of confidentiality when making appointments and dealing with this service, however all students should be aware that pro-active and positive engagement with support services will be required if a student is to be permitted to continue the degree programme.

Students who are actively seeking assistance in dealing with mental health issues related to drug or alcohol abuse will receive encouragement and support, **subject to:**

- 1) The law governing the possession, use and supply of controlled substances;
- 2) The University's Drug and Alcohol Policy; and
- 3) The University's Mental Health Policy

A student requiring an absence from the University, for the appropriate medical treatment of any issue, will be given advice and support in making suitable arrangements for the continuation of studies. Provided the student keeps the School of Study informed concerning progress, as confirmed by an appropriate agency and/or GP, the absence may be treated as authorised for the purpose of assessing examinations, coursework and the maintenance of visa sponsorship. Students may be required to undergo medical testing before being re-admitted to the University.

SENIOR TUTOR

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