



USE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS POLICY

Owner:	Director of Student Support Services
Reviewed by:	Student Life Committee
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UNIVERSITY OF ROEHAMPTON

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The University is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment which fosters a supporting community and personal development.
- 1.2 The misuse of controlled drugs is prohibited by criminal law. The term 'controlled drugs' covers a wide range of substances including cannabis, cocaine, MDMA, together with the many derivatives or hybrids of these drugs. It refers to any substance controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.
- 1.3 The term 'misuse' includes use, possession, trade, distribution, selling, offering for sale and purchase of controlled drugs. This includes illegal use of prescription drugs (i.e. the use of prescription drugs that have not been legally obtained or have been used in a manner or for a purpose other than as prescribed.)
- 1.4 The University will not tolerate the misuse of controlled drugs on-campus or at events nor the act of selling drugs on-campus or at events. Furthermore, misusing drugs goes against the Student Code of Conduct.
- 1.5 Any student found to be in breach of this policy will be subject to formal disciplinary proceedings under the Student Disciplinary Regulations.

2. POLICY

- 2.1 This policy articulates how the University will meet its responsibilities towards students with respect to the misuse of controlled drugs. The Staff Drugs and Alcohol Policy sets out the policy with respect to [staff](#).
- 2.2 The goals of this policy are to:
- Support the health and wellbeing of students, staff and visitors
 - Enable the University to fulfil its duty of care towards students with respect to the misuse of controlled drugs, and
 - Enable the University to pursue action with respect to the misuse of controlled drugs
- 2.3 The University has a pastoral responsibility and a general duty of care to staff and students. As such, the University will endeavour to provide information and advice to students aimed at minimising the risk of harm, and will also pursue disciplinary action where a breach of this policy may have occurred and/or make a referral to the police in cases where a criminal offence may have occurred.

- 2.4 The University does not condone the possession, use or supply of illegal drugs within its community and will take disciplinary action and report matters to the Police or other authorities where appropriate. The Secretariat will act as liaison with the Police in student matters and should feedback outcomes to the Director of Student Support Services and Disciplinary Officers when dealing with allegations relating to drugs. Misusing drugs in any way will require formal disciplinary proceedings or other sanctions which may include a Drug Misuse Educational Workshop and community service. Evidence of intent to supply illegal drugs will lead to permanent exclusion.
- 2.5 The University also does not condone the misuse of legal drugs, including alcohol or drugs in sport, and is committed to reducing the risks associated with alcohol and drug use within its community. Whenever it is appropriate the University will take disciplinary action in response to unacceptable behaviour associated with the misuse of legal drugs or alcohol.
- 2.6 The University is committed to providing a comprehensive educational and disciplinary framework by promoting awareness, understanding and knowledge about drugs and drug abuse. The University will provide supportive harm minimisation strategies which reduce the risks associated with drug use, including making available confidential counselling for those experiencing difficulties associated with drug use. The University will run awareness raising campaigns and deliver workshops to inform students of the harmful side effects and also the legal repercussions.
- 2.7 The fact that a student has engaged in aggressive, abusive or other anti-social behaviour as a result of the use of drugs will not excuse or mitigate that behaviour in so far as the application of the University's Student Disciplinary Regulations is concerned.
- 2.8 This policy complements other University policies, including those relating to health and safety, alcohol, mental health, equality and diversity, as well as the Student Code of Conduct, Student Disciplinary Regulations and Academic Regulations. It complements the Events Policy of the Roehampton Students' Union (RSU).
- 2.9 This policy applies at all times, and is not restricted to conduct during term time, on University premises, or in respect of University or University-related activities. The RSU is responsible for adhering to this policy when managing its events.

3 PROCEDURE

- 3.1 A protocol exists between the University of Roehampton and Wandsworth London Met Police outlined in the Security Policy. The [protocol](#) ensures that the correct procedure is followed when activities involving illegal substances occur on University property.
- 3.2 Where there is physical evidence of illegal substances having been used on campus, the University Head of Security will be informed and will remove the evidence for

safekeeping. The Head of Security has a legal obligation under the protocol to report all such cases to the Police and to hand over any evidence, which has been removed for safekeeping. The Head of Security will also inform the Secretariat. The Head of College will be informed in order to manage the impact that drug-use can have on a community.

3.3 The University has the power to inspect any area of its estate, buildings or facilities. Any inspection of a student's University accommodation will take place in accordance with the Accommodation Agreement

3.4 Where breaches of this policy or Student Code of Conduct are suspected, an investigation will take place under the Student Disciplinary Regulations.

3.5 In addition to disciplinary action, the possession, use or supply of illegal drugs may also trigger action under a student's accommodation contract where the offence has taken place in University accommodation or the offence indicates the student remaining in residence poses a risk of harm to others.

3.6 The penalties applied under the University's Student Disciplinary Regulation and the student's accommodation contract may vary in the circumstances of a particular case, and depending on whether the offence involves the possession, use, or supply of illegal drugs. Students found to be dealing or distributing drugs, or to have demonstrated intent to deal or distribute drugs, will be permanently expelled from the University. This will be the case even if it is a student's first offence and even if the matter is not referred to or taken forward by the Police.