



Student Alcohol and Drugs Policy

Owner:	Director of Student Support Services
Reviewed by:	Student Life Committee
Approved by:	Senate (7 July 2021)
Review due date:	June 2025
Update history:	New

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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 University recognises its responsibilities associated with both the selling and provision of alcohol and will exercise its duty of care towards staff, students and others, by ensuring that the consumption of alcohol on campus is managed responsibly and complies with the Licensing Act 2003.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 The term 'misuse' includes use, possession, trade, distribution, selling, offering for sale and purchase of controlled drugs and / or alcohol. 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.)
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 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 states how the University will meet its responsibilities towards students with respect to the misuse of controlled drugs and alcohol. 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 alcohol, and
 - Enable the University to pursue action with respect to the misuse of controlled drugs and alcohol
- 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 is committed to developing a social culture that promotes the sensible use of alcohol and offers suitable alternatives to those who prefer alcohol-free activities. The University aims to provide and maintain social and relaxing designated alcohol-free spaces.
- 2.5 The University foremost has a responsibility for the wellbeing of our students and will seek to support students with alcohol misuse, dependency, or abuse difficulties. We advise that students get in touch with Student Support Services if they need support in this area.
- 2.6 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 University Secretary 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.
- 2.7 The University also does not condone the misuse of legal drugs or alcohol, 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.
- 2.8 The University recognises the importance of education and communication in raising awareness among staff and students about the responsible and appropriate use of alcohol, both on and off campus.
- 2.9 The University will be responsible for ensuring that bars located on the University campus will be managed under license and conform to legal requirements.
- 2.10 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.
- 2.11 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.

- 2.12 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 also complements the Events Policy of the Roehampton Students' Union (RSU).
- 2.13 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 University Secretary. 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 Regulations and the student's accommodation contract may vary in the circumstances of a particular case, and depend 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.

Appendix

Definitions

Alcohol misuse: the drinking of alcohol can be detrimental, whereby a student's ability to study and work is impaired, their attendance is interfered with, they endanger the safety of others or cause personal harm, or they exhibit physical, mental, emotional or behavioural changes.

Drug misuse: the taking of drugs, including the use and abuse of other substances, whereby a student's ability to study and work is impaired, their attendance is interfered with, they endanger the safety of others or cause personal harm, or they exhibit physical, mental, emotional or behavioural changes .

The term 'drugs' has been used in this policy to include all drugs and substances, legal or illegal, which adversely affect behaviour or performance (including study pills).

"Dealing" is the term used in this policy to include possession with intent to supply which is a criminal offence and a matter taken very seriously by the University and RSU. Students involved in this activity will be subject to the University's Student Disciplinary Regulations.

Psychoactive substance

In the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 'psychoactive substance' means any substance which:

- (a) is capable of producing a psychoactive effect in a person who consumes it; and
- (b) is not an exempted substance (section 3/Schedule 1 of the Act).

For the purposes of this Act a substance produces a psychoactive effect in a person if, by stimulating or depressing the person's central nervous system, it affects the person's mental functioning or emotional state; and references to a substance's psychoactive effects are to be read accordingly.

For the purposes of this Act, a person consumes a substance if the person causes or allows the substance, or fumes given off by the substance, to enter the person's body in any way.

Legal highs: A term that is still widely used, and before the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 came into force, related to substances that were used recreationally but were not controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, not licensed for legal use, and not regulated as a medicine (Medicines Act 1968) . Now all such substances are illegal and the term 'legal highs' is incorrect.