

Document Details

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| Document owner | Sarah Sweeney - Head of Student Support and Wellbeing |
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Version control

| Version | Date | Description of changes and name and job title of person responsible for making changes |
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| 1.0 | 25/02/2021 | Revised draft for SEC (Thomas Guy, Student Wellbeing Coordinator) |
| 2.0 | 04/10/2023 | Updated version for SEC (Tamsin Bartlett, Student Casework and Data Manager). Updated job and service titles, changes to information related to advice on support and guidance for addiction, new reference to alleged spiking incidents, and an additional section on prescription controlled substances. |

Referenced policies and documents

[Student Discipline Regulations](#)

[Fitness to Study Procedure](#)

[Lancaster Social Work Fitness to Practise Policy](#)

DCLinPsy Fitness to Practice Policy (available from department)

Lancaster Medical School Fitness to Practice Policy – (please contact the Lancaster Medical School directly for details of their policy)

Policy and Procedures on Student Drug and/or Alcohol Misuse

1. Introduction

1.1

4.2 With specific reference to University property and accommodation, under this policy:

it is forbidden to have drugs (unless they have been prescribed for personal use by a medical professional) or psychoactive substances brought or otherwise delivered to University property, including University residences.

5. Procedures

5.1 Those who witness an incident occurring which involves the misuse of drugs and/or alcohol should not intervene directly. If the incident is happening and needs an intervention, the Police or the University Security Team should be contacted on 01524 594541, with information on where the incident is occurring and any other relevant information. The Security Team will then take the appropriate action.

Concerns or non-urgent incidents can be reported to:

[The Student Conduct Manager](#)

College Deanery (contact individual [Colleges](#))

[Security and Porters \(out of hours\)](#)

- 5.4.3 If the situation requires it, a risk assessment will be undertaken to determine the most appropriate course of action and identify any immediate support. This will be done following the standard procedures set out in the Student Disciplinary Regulations. In some situations, this could lead to temporary suspension and/or exclusion from the University or its constituent parts.
- 5.4.4 Appeals procedures (e.g. against the outcome of risk assessments or disciplinary outcomes) are set out in the [Student Disciplinary Regulations](#).
- 5.4.5 In line with our regulations, items may be confiscated. These items will be stored by the University Security Team and may be handed over to the police for disposal.
- 5.4.6 The University reserves the right to refer to the Police. Examples of occasions which may raise such concerns include:
- (i) dealing/supplying⁴ drugs;
 - (ii) violent, aggressive or threatening behaviour;
 - (iii) repeat offences – the individual has previously received a formal written warning and penalties for drug-related offences, through implementation of student disciplinary procedures;
 - (iv) Instances where an individual is accused of a spiking incident.

In these cases, internal disciplinary and wellbeing procedures will still be followed.

6. Advice, guidance and support

- 6.1 The University regards an individual's dependency or problematic use of either drugs or alcohol as a health problem. If a student reports a dependency issue or problematic use, the University will consider how best to support them. The University offers a range of advice, guidance and support services to students with drugs and/or alcohol concerns. These services are freely available to all students

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1

University staff have a responsibility to respond and manage alcohol and/or drug misuse in the following ways:

- familiarise themselves with this policy;
- attend alcohol and drug awareness training, where it is appropriate for their role;
- if a student does disclose an alcohol and/or drug difficulty:
 - o listen to the student's concerns;
 - o clarify their role and the areas they can support;
 - o be aware of professional boundaries and limits of expertise and refer to the services listed above;
- treat any disclosure of alcohol and/or drug use seriously and refer the student to the Student Wellbeing Services. Student Wellbeing Services will identify whether referral to external services would be helpful;
- where relevant to their role, work with Student Wellbeing Services to create a collaborative action plan under the [Fitness to Study/Practise](#) procedures (see relevant departmental website/handbook) to give the student the best chance of success;
- report incidents in progress as set out in section 5 above.

7.2

Students are expected to:

- seek help and support from services as soon as they are able to if they are experiencing problems related to drug and/or alcohol use. This support can be sought from services external or internal to the University;
- seek help from the University if events or circumstances have triggered a

The team can also provide information on relevant colleagues and external organisations who can provide support. The Associate Director (Student Wellbeing and Inclusion) has responsibility for the University's Student Wellbeing Services team

Legal Obligations

Misuse of Drugs

Legislation relating to misuse of drugs, including the definitions of terms and categorisation of substances, are contained primarily within two acts of Parliament – the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 – Current penalties for possession and dealing can be found on the Home Office Tackling Drugs [website](#). Substances are categorised as Class A, B or C.

Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 – The act prohibits and disrupts the production, distribution, sale and supply of new psychoactive substances (NPS) in the UK (specifically those not covered by the Misuse of Drugs act). Note: of any substances covered by this Act is punishable under the law, although substances will be confiscated and potentially tested. If found to contain drugs that contravene Misuse of Drugs Act, further penalties may be applied.

The University will balance legal, health and safety, wellbeing, educational and professional conduct responsibilities. The legal context is of paramount importance and the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 confirms that the University has no legal obligation to report every single illegal drug-related incident to the police. However, it does make it clear that in the event of such an incident, the University must take clear action to address the situation and ensure that it does not recur. The University must, therefore, be able to demonstrate that in the event of an illegal drug-related incident on its premises:

meaningful action is taken to prevent and/or discourage any recurrence (i.e. it is not knowingly condoning such illegal drug-related activity) through the implementation of disciplinary procedures and other appropriate measures;

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Misuse of Alcohol

It is legal to consume alcohol but where the consumption of excess alcohol leads to anti-social behaviour there may be legal consequences. In such cases the University will consider the most appropriate course of action, taking into account the relevant factors outlined in the section of this appendix.

Licencing Act 2003