

Policy on the use of illegal drugs , Psychoactive Substances, Nitrous Oxide and misuse of legal drugs by students

Introduction

1. The University has a duty to provide a safe and healthy study, work and leisure environment that respects the laws relating to the possession, supply and production of illegal substances.
2. The 'Misuse of Drugs Act 1971' makes it an offence to possess, use or supply to other persons, any controlled drug. The Act also makes it an offence for the occupier of the premises or a person concerned in management of premises to knowingly permit or suffer any of several activities to take place on those premises. The activities specified in the Act include smoking cannabis or cannabis resin, and supplying or attempting to supply a controlled drug to another person. The University, as the landlord, is obliged to comply with the Act and notify the police if a student is found to be in possession of drugs or to be supplying or producing illegal substances.

Policy statement

3. The purpose of this policy is to:
 - x Support the health and welfare of students, staff and visitors
 - x Enable the University to fulfil its duty of care towards students with respect to the use of illegal drugs, and
 - x Enable the University to discharge its legal obligations with respect to the use of illegal drugs.
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6. The University does not condone:

- x the possession, use or supply of illegal drugs within its community
- x the misuse of legal drugs including drugs in sport
- x the use of any illegal drugs or any prescription drugs that have not been prescribed for the user
- x the possession, use or supply of Psychoactive Substances Previously known as 'Legal Highs' or Nitrous Oxide also known as 'Laughing Gas'
- x any unacceptable behaviour associated with the misuse of drugs.

7. It is a criminal offence to be in possession of, use or distribute an illegal substance. If any such incidents take place on University premises, in vehicles being used for university business or at a University function, they will be regarded as serious, will be investigated by the University, subject to disciplinary action and possible reporting to the police where appropriate. The consequences resulting from a police caution or prosecution for the possession or trafficking of illegal drugs are not limited to fines and prison sentences. A criminal record can have a serious impact on employment prospects, particularly for professions such as law or teaching.

8. Any person found on or at premises under the control of the University who is found or suspected to be involved with drugs misuse, will be subject to disciplinary action and possible reporting to the police where appropriate. The consequences resulting from a police caution or prosecution for the possession or trafficking of illegal drugs are not limited to fines and prison sentences. A criminal record can have a serious impact on employment prospects, particularly for professions such as law or teaching.

12. Staff, students and visitors are clearly required to comply with the law and therefore residents at the University Halls of Residence may not bring in or cause or allow to be brought into the accommodation any unlawful drugs or other such substances. Where there is reasonable suspicion that illegal activities are taking place in the Halls of Residence, an investigation and searches will be carried out by the Police in the presence of the Warden, Student Services staff and/or Security.
13. Anyone found using, supplying or in possession of illegal substances

