

# POLICY ON ALCOHOL

## 1. SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW

- 1.1 Our University has a legal duty to provide a safe environment for all students and staff. We take this responsibility very seriously and we are working hard to manage the use and impact of alcohol on campus.
- 1.2 This policy, in line with the General Regulations for Students of the University, is based on the best interests of the whole of our community, students, staff, families and friends, as well as those who live locally. It is appreciated that the great majority of us who use alcohol do so responsibly. While the use of alcohol is generally socially acceptable in our society, its abuse, and any dependency on it, can have harmful effects not just on ourselves but on others too.
- 1.3 Convictions related to the inappropriate use of alcohol and acts committed under the influence of alcohol can have consequences for future careers.
- 1.4 The University will continue to develop its strategy to inform members of the issues surrounding alcohol use and abuse and will use a range of educational and supportive tools, as well as the application of penalties, to help us achieve our goals.
- 1.5 The University has a range of penalties which are outlined in the Policy. It is also common to refer those found to be treating alcohol in an inappropriate way to be asked to undertake appropriate counselling. If you are considered to be using alcohol irresponsibly you may be asked to meet with the Student Conduct Manager and / or the Students First team to discuss the issue.
- 1.6 The Student Conduct Manager and Students First teams are here to help to improve the environment for the majority and with that in mind are available to discuss any concerns that you may have.

## **2. POLICY**

### **Purpose and scope**

- 2.1 The University seeks to minimise the harmful effects of alcohol and this policy is based on the principles of education, care and effective management.
- 2.2 The policy recognises the importance of maintaining a safe environment for all members of the University and everyone is reminded that some incidents regarding alcohol are criminal offences.
- 2.3 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 wellbeing.
- 2.4 This policy relates to all students of the University.

### **Legal Background**

- 2.5 There is a range of legislation relating to the provision of alcohol and the University will uphold the requirements as appropriate.
- 2.6 Laws relating to alcohol apply both on and off campus.
- 2.7 You are also reminded that drinking and driving is an offence in the UK and that the law here may vary from that in other countries.
- 2.8 The Police will also take action against individuals who are involved in incidents where alcohol has played a part.
- 2.9 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 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday.
- 2.10 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.

### **Discipline**

#### ***Alcohol related behaviour***

- 2.11 The University will not tolerate any alcohol-related behaviour on the part of any student that endangers the health, safety or wellbeing of other students, staff or University property.
- 2.12 Being drunk is no defence against breaches of University rules. Disciplinary action will normally include exclusion from some or all University premises and University events (General Regulations for Students of the University rules 7.1 and 9.3 refer)
- 2.13 Repeat offences will not be tolerated and may be punished more harshly.

### ***Suspected alcohol abuse***

- 2.14 A member of University staff having reason to believe that any student is in danger due to the excessive use or any abuse of alcohol should advise that student to seek appropriate help from the Students First Department, refer the student to the Student Conduct Manager and inform the student that they are doing so.
- 2.15 Students will meet with the Student Conduct Manager to discuss the issue.

## **3. PROCESS**

### ***Searches***

- 3.1 It is against the law to consume alcohol on licensed premises when it was not bought there. As a result, campus and event security staff have the right to search people entering the Tanlaw Mill. This includes clothing and bags – remember, you are responsible for the contents of your bag or clothing.
- 3.2 Any breaches of policy will be reported to the Student Conduct Manager.

### ***Meetings and interviews with the Student Conduct Manager***

- 3.3 All meetings with the Student Conduct Manager will be documented and copies of notes taken provided.
- 3.4 Students are entitled to attend the meeting alone, or with a friend (a fellow student), or their Personal Tutor.
- 3.5 Disciplinary action will be in accordance with the General Regulations for Students of the University, relating to Student Behaviour, in particular Rules 7.9 and 9.6.
- 3.6 Fines levied under the disciplinary process will be paid to the Student Hardship Fund.

## **4. EDUCATION**

- 4.1 The University is committed to raising awareness of the possible consequences to health of the irresponsible use or abuse of alcohol. The Students First Department can also direct students to specialist advisory services such as the local Community Drug & Alcohol Team and FRANK ([www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)). Specialist advice and information available to students covers safe drinking habits; the adverse effects of alcohol; alternatives to alcohol; and skills to enable students to cope with the social pressures of alcohol use.

## **5. CARE**

- 5.1 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 First. Students can be assured of confidentiality when making appointments and dealing with this service.
- 5.2 Students who are actively seeking assistance in dealing with mental health issues related to alcohol abuse will receive encouragement and support.
- 5.3 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.

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