

BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERSITY

Student drug and substance misuse policy

1. Policy statement

- 1.1 The University is committed to providing a supportive, safe and healthy environment in which to study. It does not condone the use of illegal drugs or the misuse of legal substances and recognises both its legal responsibilities and its duty of care to students.
- 1.2 “Substance” in this context includes
- illegal or controlled drugs;
 - prescription drugs;
 - other substances, for example, alcohol, over-the-counter medication, caffeine, nicotine or so-called ‘legal highs’, which when used inappropriately or excessively can be dangerous.
- 1.3 The University aims to:
- provide appropriate information on issues relating to substance use or misuse;
 - provide appropriate support and advice to students affected by substance use or misuse;
 - discharge its legal obligations with respect to the use of illegal drugs;
 - use its disciplinary procedures appropriately to maintain a safe environment for the whole university community.
- 1.4 This policy applies to all students of the University on university premises or outside university premises when engaged in university business or study activities including placements, field trips etc.

2. Information

- 2.1 The University recognises its responsibility in relation to promoting the health and wellbeing of its students including the prevention of harm through substance use or misuse.
- 2.2 The University will, therefore, aim to raise awareness through the provision of information via a range of media including health promotion campaigns and links to appropriate external agencies.

3. Support and advice

- 3.1 Where a student is affected by substance use or misuse, either their own or another person's, the University will aim to provide appropriate support and advice through Student Services, the Students' Union and / or the student's faculty or school.
- 3.2 Such support and advice will be governed by the normal confidentiality policies in place within those services.
- 3.3 The University will also provide information about and referral to appropriate external agencies.

4. Legal issues

4.1 The University recognises that the following are offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971:

- possession of a controlled drug;
- possession with intent to supply another person;
- production, cultivation or manufacture of controlled drugs;
- supplying another person with a controlled drug;
- offering to supply another person with a controlled drug;
- import or export of controlled drugs;
- allowing premises to be used for the consumption of certain controlled drugs or for the supply or production of any controlled drug.

4.2 The University will report known offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 to the Police or other authorities as appropriate.

5. Disciplinary issues

5.1 Students known to have committed offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 may be subject to the University's Disciplinary Procedures including, where appropriate, the University's Fitness for Practice Procedure.

5.2 The University may also take disciplinary action in relation to unacceptable behaviour associated with the misuse of legal or illegal substances.

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