

The Control of Smoking on University Premises Policy

Aim

The aim of this policy is to protect the health and welfare of all staff, students and visitors on University premises by providing an environment free of smoke.

Principles

The University has a statutory and common law duty to protect staff, students and visitors from the health risks associated with passive smoking. For these reasons the University does not allow smoking or e-cigarettes or any device that simulates the act of smoking on any of its premises, grounds or in its vehicles. This includes all staff, students, contractors and other visitors to the University premises, seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

For the purposes of this policy 'smoking' is defined as; "smoking tobacco or anything which contains tobacco, or smoking any other substance, e-cigarettes or any device that simulates the act of smoking".

It is not the purpose of this policy to dictate to individuals whether they smoke or not, other than when they are on the University's premises.

The University wishes to portray a professional image to its students and visitors. Therefore smoking is also prohibited at all times around the entrances to all University property.

Smoking will not be permitted in student bars or other commercial areas of the building or in common areas i.e. kitchens, corridors, lounges. Smoking will not be permitted in University accommodation.

Smoking areas may be designated on University property external to its buildings but such areas should not be placed close to building entrances and windows where smoke may blow into a workplace and/or near places where food is served or consumed.

This Policy will be communicated in all recruitment and induction material for staff and students, in general publicity material and through appropriate notices and signs.

The consequences of contravening the Policy will be made clear in writing in all recruitment and induction material for staff and students and by notices placed at the entrances of sites and throughout sites. These will include warnings that the appropriate disciplinary procedures may be used for persistent breaches.

The sale of tobacco products or e-cigarettes or any device that simulates the act of smoking on University premises will not be permitted.

It is the responsibility of the senior managers to ensure the policy is continually publicised, monitored and enforced.

All visitors to the site should be informed of the Policy on arrival and by the person responsible for them when on-site.

Enforcement of this Policy

Smoking, or the use of e-cigarettes or any other device that simulates the act of smoking, on University premises will be in contravention of this Policy and the University's Disciplinary Codes for staff or students. If a member of staff or a student, having been reminded of the policy in the first instance, continues to smoke on the premises then appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

If visitors smoke, or use e-cigarettes or any other device that simulates the act of smoking, in prohibited areas they should be made aware of the Policy and asked to stop smoking. If a visitor refuses to comply with this Policy they will be required to leave the premises.

Assistance for smokers to give up smoking

In the first instance staff and students who would like to reduce or give up smoking should seek assistance from their local Primary Health Care Trust or their GP. The University will periodically arrange general awareness and educational events on how to give up smoking.