

THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT

University Policy Statement for Students concerning Alcohol

1. Purpose

- (i) The University is committed to safeguarding the health, safety and welfare of its students.
- (ii) The University accepts its responsibility to promote good health by raising awareness of the risks of alcohol misuse.
- (iii) The University respects the privacy of students but it must, however, be concerned where a student's behaviour impairs his/her conduct, safety or academic performance and/or adversely affects other students, staff, campus life or the wider community.

2. Scope

This Policy applies to all students.

3. Policy content

This Policy indicates how the University:

- seeks to provide a healthy and safe environment for students and others;
- provides support for students with an alcohol problem;
- deals with an alcohol-related problem or incident which affects the conduct, safety or academic performance of an individual student, other students, staff, campus life and/or the wider community.

4. Definition of alcohol misuse by students

Alcohol misuse is a level of consumption which persistently impairs a student's work and/or behaviour.

5. Principles

The University recognises:

- (i) that sensible consumption of alcohol may enhance students' enjoyment of their non-academic activities;

- (ii) that excessive drinking on a regular basis or “binge” drinking may adversely affect individual students, other students, staff, campus life or the wider community and this is contrary to the University’s expectation of a high standard of conduct by all of its students;
- (iii) that addiction to alcohol may, in some cases, be considered a medical condition and in such cases it should be treated as such and in the strictest confidence;
- (iv) that action against students under the non-academic disciplinary regulations would be appropriate in the event of an incident where another student(s)/staff/others/the campus/wider community had been adversely affected and (iii) did not apply (or had been ineffective);
- (v) its responsibility to comply with the law in relation to any offences involving alcohol. Students are expected not to undertake their academic commitments (e.g. lectures, seminars, practical and laboratory sessions and work placements) while under the influence of alcohol.

6. Sensible drinking: help for students

- (i) The University provides facilities for students to find out about sensible drinking, to assess their own drinking habits and to obtain confidential advice and help about alcohol consumption. In Canterbury this is provided via the University Medical Centre (an NHS practice located on campus and available for student use) (with similar external provision at Medway). Other student services are provided on the Canterbury and Medway Campuses including the Counselling Service, welfare support provided by the College Masters and the Chaplaincy and the Students’ Unions (Kent Union and Greenwich & Kent Students’ Unions Together Advice Centres).
- (ii) The University encourages any student who suspects that he/she has an alcohol misuse problem to seek assistance voluntarily from the services referred to above or alternatives (such as a General Practitioner).
- (iii) The University supports health campaigns promoted by the Medical Centre, its Student Services, Kent Union and Greenwich & Kent Students’ Unions Together.
- (iv) The University promotes alternatives to alcohol where it is sold or provided on campus. During working hours the University does not normally provide alcoholic drinks for entertaining visitors.

7. Alcohol misuse

- (i) Students are strongly advised not to put their academic and other activities at risk by alcohol misuse. Students are also advised not to compromise their health by being with or reliant on someone who has consumed excess alcohol (e.g. as a car passenger).

- (ii) The University will take action to prevent injury, damage or other serious risk where, as a result of alcohol misuse, a student acts in such a way as to endanger him/herself and/or others. A student believed to be under the influence of alcohol may, for example, be asked to leave a lecture, seminar, practical workshop or laboratory session. In appropriate circumstances the Support to Study Procedure may be invoked to help a student to receive professional help and advice in relation to his/her academic work.
- (iii) An ongoing alcohol problem will not constitute an acceptable excuse for bad behaviour or performance or exempt the student(s) concerned from the normal consequences of inappropriate performance or misconduct.
- (iv) The Regulations on Student Discipline in relation to non-academic matters indicate how the University deals with offences against the law (such as assault, rape, theft and involving drugs and alcohol) and breaches of these Regulations (such as in the case of disorderly, insulting and anti-social conduct arising from “binge” drinking) by students. The Regulations provide for penalties including warnings, fines, exclusion from University premises and termination of registration.

8. Documents

The following documents, referred to above, may be found on the University's website:

Support to Study Procedure:

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/regulations/Regulations%20Booklet/support-to-study-procedure-dec2013.pdf>

Regulations on Student Discipline in relation to non-academic matters:

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/regulations/Regulations%20Booklet/generalregs.html>

KRG/HAP/JLP
12.11.2014