

# THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT

## POLICY STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS CONCERNING ALCOHOL

### 1. Scope

This University Policy Statement applies to all University of Kent students.

### 2. Purpose

- (i) The University is committed to safeguarding the health, safety and welfare of its students and adopts a zero tolerance approach to the misuse of alcohol.
- (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 their conduct, safety or academic performance and/or adversely affects other students, staff, campus life or the wider community.

### 3. Policy Content

This Policy indicates how the University:

- (i) seeks to provide a healthy and safe environment for students and others;
- (ii) provides support for students with an alcohol problem;
- (iii) 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 impairs a student's work and/or behaviour.

### 5. Principles

The University recognises:

- (i) that if alcohol is consumed then it should be done sensibly and in moderation;
- (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 it would be appropriate to consider action against students under the Regulations on Student Discipline in Relation to Non-academic Matters in cases of breaches of the criminal law or in the case of an incident where another student(s)/staff/others/the campus/wider community had been adversely affected.

Normally any such proceedings would follow the completion of police enquiries and action by the police or the court except in stances where the Vice-Chancellor (of delegate acting on their behalf) may exclude a student from University facilities or premises.

- (v) Students must not undertake their academic commitments (e.g. lectures, seminars, practical and laboratory sessions and work placements) while under the influence of alcohol.

## **6. 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, students act in such a way as to endanger themselves 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 receive professional specialist support and advice.
- (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/psychoactive substances 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 rehabilitation or education programmes or penalties including warnings, fines, exclusion from University premises and termination of registration.

## **7. 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). Specialist advice and support is available from ‘Turning Point’ an external charitable organisation that works closely with the University. Other student services are provided on the Canterbury and Medway campuses including counselling offered by Student Support and Wellbeing, 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 students’ who suspect that they have 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 aims to promote alternatives to alcohol where it is sold or provided on campus.
- (v) The University supports training to be undertaken by relevant staff to increase awareness of the dangers of alcohol and its misuse.

## **8. Review of Policy and Documents**

This policy will be kept under regular review by the Managing Student Conduct Group and Student Experience Board.

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

Support to Study Procedure and Regulations on Student Discipline in Relation to Non-academic Matters:

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/regulations/general.html>

## **9. Further Information**

College Masters are available to support students with alcohol-related problems or refer them to the Wellbeing Team for counselling or to arrange further support.

### **Contact Details**

College Masters: <https://www.kent.ac.uk/student-services/masters/>

Counselling: <https://www.kent.ac.uk/student-wellbeing/counselling/>

Student Services

September 2016