
Academic Services

STUDENT ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY: QUICK GUIDE



Aims of the policy

- Promote a safe, healthy and supportive community for University staff, students and visitors
- Inform students about drug and alcohol use and define “misuse”
- Provide guidance and advice to staff and students on the support options available
- Enable staff and students to make informed decisions about drug and alcohol use
- Offer guidelines to all students and staff regarding their responsibilities and the **Student Code of Conduct & Disciplinary Procedure**
- Explain how misuse may lead to disciplinary or legal action.

Policy highlights

What is the definition of ‘drugs’?

The definition of ‘drugs’ for the purposes of this policy is any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks. Such substances can include:

- alcohol
- ‘over the counter medicines’
- prescribed drugs
- volatile substances such as glues and aerosols
- all drugs listed as illegal under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, including new psychoactive substances (NPS) previously referred to as ‘legal highs’ and any substances under a temporary class drug order.
- other substances which are illegal for human consumption within medicines legislation, this may include so-called dietary supplements (such as dinitrophenol (known as DNP)).

What do we mean by misuse?

The term 'substance misuse' relates to all illegal drugs; all legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances; and all over-the-counter and prescription medicines. As well as acknowledging the legal definition of misuse, the University's policy includes within the definition of 'misuse' as the habitual or intermittent use of alcohol or any drug or other substance which causes detriment to an individual's health, social functioning or study/work performance. It can often impair the safety of themselves or others and affect attendance, time keeping, efficiency or conduct.

Who is covered by the policy?

The policy applies to all students enrolled to study at UCA, including Further Education (FE), Higher Education (HE) and Post Graduate (PG), both taught and research students, and those on short courses.

Information

Information and support is available at Academic Services to enable students to make informed decisions about appropriate levels of alcohol, drug and substance use.

Training & Awareness

Guidance and training will be available to all UCA staff where necessary and with particular regard to ensuring appropriate training is made available to those staff that have named responsibilities within the policy, via the University's Learning & Development Team.

Academic Services will provide and circulate publicity materials to raise student awareness (e.g. posters, leaflets etc.).

Student's Union will invite local police liaison officers and /or other organisations to provide information to students during Fresher's events and other appropriate forums.