

Student drugs and alcohol policy

1. Introduction

1.1 The School is committed to upholding the highest standards of health and safety for the protection of our Students' mental and physical wellbeing, and creating an environment where Students can thrive and achieve their educational goals.

1.2 Drug misuse is the use of illegal drugs and the misuse, whether deliberate or unintentional, of prescribed drugs and other substances, including psychoactive substances. Drug and alcohol misuse damages physical and mental health and wellbeing, affects cognitive abilities and lifestyle, and may lead to intoxication and dependency.

1.3 Drug and alcohol misuse may also impact on the School and its community through increased health and safety risks; antisocial and violent behaviours; substandard academic performance and impact on an individual's ability to progress and learn. It may also raise disciplinary issues and/or be a contributory or aggravating factor in a disciplinary matter.

1.4 The School is committed to tackling any issues of student drug and alcohol misuse and at the same time wish to ensure that students who need help or have identified a problem get the support they require.

2. Policy aims and objectives

2.1 This policy aims to protect Students from the dangers of drug, psychoactive substances and alcohol misuse and to encourage those who have or may have a drug or alcohol problem or are at risk of addiction to seek help.

2.2 The School supports the prevention of drug and alcohol related problems by:

- Providing clarity on the School's position on alcohol and drugs in order to minimise problems for students, staff and the LSE community;
- raising awareness;
- identifying problems at an early stage;
- supporting those affected with alcohol or controlled substance related problems by providing clear signposting to the support available to students and encouraging students to access treatment where possible;
- offering support to Students who seek it;
- ensuring cases are dealt with sympathetically, fairly, and consistently;
- taking disciplinary action.

3. Definitions

3.1 Drugs:

- a. All controlled drugs listed in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and any substance covered by the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to:
 - Class A drugs include: heroin (diamorphine), cocaine (including crack), methadone, ecstasy (MDMA), LSD, and magic mushrooms.
 - Class B drugs include: amphetamines, barbiturates, codeine, cannabis, cathinones (including mephedrone) and synthetic cannabinoids.
 - Class C drugs include: benzodiazepines (tranquilisers), GHB/GBL, ketamine, anabolic steroids and benzylpiperazines (BZP).
- b. Prescription only medicines (as determined under the Medicines Act 1968). This also includes but is not limited to nootropics, cognitive enhancement drugs (e.g. Modafinil, Ritalin and Sunifram) which are not illegal if they are prescribed by a Doctor.

3.2 Supply:

The transfer of physical control of a drug (including nootropic, cognitive enhancement drugs) to someone else. It is not important whether there is profit or benefit of any form, although this may be reflected in any decision regarding disciplinary sanction(s).

3.3 Alcohol misuse:

Alcohol misuse is a level of consumption which impacts on a student's behaviour.

3.4 The School recognises:

- That if alcohol is consumed then it should be done sensibly and in moderation;
- That excessive drinking on a regular basis or 'binge' drinking may adversely affect individual students, other students, staff or the wider LSE community.

4. Legal Framework

4.1 The School has a legal responsibility to provide a safe and healthy environment for students, staff and visitors. Any events where alcohol is made available are also required to be managed properly.

4.2 Students are reminded that it is a criminal offence to produce, supply, possess, or import a controlled drug, as defined under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. It is also a criminal offence to produce, supply, possess with the intent to supply, or import psychoactive substances, as defined under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016. The supply and consumption of alcohol are subject to the restrictions of the Alcohol Licensing Act 1964.

4.3 Licence holders, which may include the School and its staff, have a legal duty to manage premises responsibly and have the authority to ban people for their antisocial behaviour from their bars and other places where alcohol is on sale. In addition, this duty encompasses the need to ensure public order when the School provides alcohol that is not necessarily on sale; for example when holding student receptions where alcohol may be served. Any anti-social behaviour at such event(s) could result in the School asking individual(s) to be removed and barred from such event(s). Students are also not permitted to bring their own alcohol into areas that have been licensed. Those areas can be found under the tab 'Table of locations and capacities of licensed rooms' in the following link: <https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/services/catering/order-catering> and also in the Policy on provision of informal hospitality catering: <https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/services/catering/assets/documents/policy-on-provision-of-informal-hospitality-catering.pdf>

5. Disciplinary rules

5.1 As such, the School prohibits, and will not condone the use or supply of illegal drugs on any of its premises and/or Halls of Residence. Any such use or supply of illegal drugs is a major misconduct offence in its own right.

5.2 For the avoidance of doubt, the types of drug or alcohol misuse related conduct most likely to breach Conditions of Registration and be considered under the Disciplinary Procedure for Students (the list is not exhaustive) can be found at Appendix C of that Procedure. Students will be signposted to support available for them whilst they may be subject to a disciplinary matter.

5.3 Those found in breach will be subject to disciplinary actions either under the Disciplinary Procedure for Students [disProStu.pdf \(lse.ac.uk\)](#) or Fitness to study Policy [fitStuPol.pdf \(lse.ac.uk\)](#) or the Student Accommodation Disciplinary Code [StuAccomDiscCo.pdf \(lse.ac.uk\)](#) or a combination of each, as appropriate, and may also be referred to the Police.

6. Support available

6.1 Students who believe to have an alcohol or drug-related problem or are worried about another student at LSE, should seek specialist advice and support as soon as possible.

6.2 The School's Student Counselling Service offers a private and confidential space for Students to discuss anything which is impacting their psychological wellbeing and daily life. The service is staffed with trained counselling professionals, who offer one-to-one appointments and workshops which run throughout the year. Full information on this Service and how to access it is available on the School website: <https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/student-wellbeing/student-counselling/about-counselling>.

6.3 Students may also speak with a Mental Health Advisors through the School DWS (<https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/student-wellbeing/disability-wellbeing/speak-with-an-adviser>).

6.4 In addition to counselling and mental health adviser support, there is also support available through the School Peer Supporters. Peer Supporters are trained student volunteers who can offer support, give a fresh perspective and listen to whatever is troubling a student, from academic stresses to relationships. Students can explore the following page (<https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/student-wellbeing/students-supporting-students/peer-support-scheme>) to learn more about how Peer Support could help them, and how to contact a Peer Supporter.

6.5 Students can also access a 24/7 out of hours mental health support line sponsored by the School via SpectrumLife. All calls are answered by clinically trained counsellors or psychotherapists. Students can talk to them about anything, including stress, anxiety, low mood, financial worries, loss and grief, relationship problems, and substance abuse issues.

6.6 The School offers several other external counselling/therapy resources, free or at a low cost, that Students can access (<https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/student-wellbeing/student-counselling/support-outside-lse>).

6.7 The LSESU. The LSE Students' Union Advice Service is independent from LSE and provides a safe, non-judgemental and encouraging environment for students to seek support on a range of topics. Its advisors are trained to both provide tailored individual support and have an extensive knowledge of external specialist support options. Details of the Advice Service can be found on this page (<https://www.lsesu.com/support/advice/>). You can find more information about the support that the SU provides and recommends for students with drug and alcohol issues here (<https://www.lsesu.com/support/drugandalcoholsupport/>).

6.8 External Support. There is also external support available at the following links:

- Drugs and Me: [The Home of Harm Reduction \(drugsand.me\)](https://www.drugsandme.org/)

- Know the score: [Find Out About Drugs - Know the Score](#)
- Talk to Frank: <https://www.talktofrank.com/>
- NHS Drug Addiction: Getting help: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/drug-addiction-getting-help/>
- Drugwise: <https://www.drugwise.org.uk>
- The Mix: essential support for under 25's : <https://www.themix.org.uk/drink-and-drugs>
- Alcohol Change UK: [Alcohol harms. Time for change. | Alcohol Change UK](#)
- NHS Alcohol Support: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/alcohol-support/>
- Drinkaware: <https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/tools/track-and-calculate-units-app>

END

Review schedule

Review interval	Next review due by	Next review start
2 years	1 September 2023	17 May 2023

Version history

Version	Date	Approved by	Notes
2	31 st August 2021	SMC	Authors Refel Ismail (Senior Legal Counsel) and Mariachiara Valsecchi (legal Counsel)
1	25 th June 2002	Council	Author Kevin Haynes (Head of Legal) k.j.haynes@lse.ac.uk

Links

Related Policies/Procedures	Link
Disciplinary Procedure for Students	https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/services/Policies-and-procedures/Assets/Documents/disProStu.pdf
Student Complaints procedure	https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/services/Policies-and-procedures/Assets/Documents/comPro.pdf
LSE Student Accommodation Disciplinary Code	StuAccomDiscCo.pdf (lse.ac.uk)
Fitness to Study Policy	fitStuPol.pdf (lse.ac.uk)
Policy and Provision of Informal hospitality catering	https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/services/catering/assets/documents/policy-on-provision-of-informal-hospitality-catering.pdf
Health and Safety Policy	http://www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/LSEServices/healthAndSafety/pdf/SafetyPolicy.pdf
The Ethics Code	https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/Secretarys-Division/Assets/Documents/Ethics/EthicsCodeA5postcard.pdf

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Communications and Training

Will this document be publicised through Internal Communications?	Yes
Will training needs arise from this policy	Yes
If Yes, please give details Consider training at key parts of the academic year and any joint training with the SU.	