



# HULL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION DRUG POLICY

Hull University Students' Union has a zero-tolerance policy towards drug use at its venues, events and social activities. This includes all events coordinated by student groups.

## 1. Interpretations

- a) HUSU has a legal responsibility to prevent substance use and misuse within its premises.
- b) HUSU zero-tolerance policy towards drug use includes illegal drugs and none illegal drugs which are sometimes called 'legal highs'. Legal highs include Poppers (liquid gold, amyl or butyl nitrite), Solvents (aerosols, gases, glues etc.) and psychoactive substances like nitrous oxide ('laughing gas').
- c) The laws controlling drug use are complicated but there are three main statutes regulating the availability of drugs in the UK: The Misuse of Drugs Act (1971), The Medicines Act (1968) and The Psychoactive Substances Act (2016)
- d) Under The Misuse of Drugs Act (1971), drugs are divided into 4 categories; Class A includes Crack cocaine, cocaine and ecstasy (MDMA), Class B Includes cannabis, ketamine, amphetamines and barbiturates, Class C includes Anabolic steroids and benzodiazepines (diazepam). The fourth category is a 'Temporary Class'. The Government can ban new drugs for 1 year under a 'temporary banning order' while they decide how the drugs should be classified.
- e) You can get a fine or prison sentence if you take drugs, carry drugs, make drugs, sell, deal or share drugs (also called 'supplying' them).
- f) The penalties depend on the type of drug or substance, the amount you have, and whether you're dealing or producing it. You can receive up to 7 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both for possessing illegal drugs and up to life in prison, an unlimited fine or both for supply or production of illegal drugs.
- g) Breaches of the HUSU Drug Policy will be dealt with through Hull University Students' Union Disciplinary Policy, and will be referred to the University Misconduct Officer
- h) This policy relates to illegal drugs and legal highs and does not address alcohol related issues (which are covered in the 'Alcohol & Social Events Policy'). However, the Student Support section does include alcohol related issues purely from a signposting perspective.



## 2. Implementation

### HUSU Licensed Premises

- a) Hull University Students' Union has a zero tolerance policy toward drug use at its licensed venues. Searches will be in operation, as well as sniffer dogs for some events.
- b) Students found in possession of illegal substances and/ or legal highs will be banned for a minimum of 6 weeks and can face a lifetime ban. Students may also be excluded from holding office in committee and Officer roles (this includes any student in a volunteering position or volunteering on behalf of HUSU) for that year under the HUSU Code of Conduct. In extreme cases, students can be arrested and expelled from University.
- c) Students found asking for illegal substances will be banned for a minimum of 6 weeks.
- d) Students found offering drugs to people can face a lifetime ban and will be excluded from holding office in committee and Officer roles. In extreme cases, students can be arrested and expelled from University.
- e) Non-students found in possession, offering or asking for illegal substances will be banned for life and in some circumstances can be arrested.
- f) If you decline a search upon arrival, you will not be allowed in the venue that night.

### Other HUSU Events & Social Activities

- g) This Zero Tolerance Drugs policy extends to all and any activity undertaken by a student member or group of students from Hull University Students' Union.
- h) Any breach of this policy by a student or group of students will be dealt with as a disciplinary matter through Hull University Students' Union Disciplinary Policy.
- i) HUSU has a complaints policy, which can be found on its website. Complaints can be made verbally to a HUSU member of staff or by going to our website and clicking on contact us. Follow the instructions at the bottom of the page or by sending a complaint to [HUSU-complaints@hull.ac.uk](mailto:HUSU-complaints@hull.ac.uk)
- j) If a complaint raised refers to an incident/s in breach of the Drug Policy alleged to have happened in HUSU premises or at a HUSU official function or activity off campus, run by the Union, a society, sports club, or standing committee it is likely to be dealt with as a disciplinary matter.
- k) This will be followed by actions deemed appropriate by the nature of the complaint.



### 3. Student Support

- a) At Hull University Students' Union, we understand that students, like many other young people, may come into contact with alcohol and drugs in a variety of different environments. This may be the first time that students have come into contact with these intoxicants and we want to ensure that all students at HUSU are aware of the facts about drugs and alcohol, and how to access support during their time at university.
- b) We work very closely with colleagues at the University Student Wellbeing Team to ensure that students are given the advice that they need about these substances, and that they are able to access any support or assistance that they require if they need it. The Student Wellbeing Team offer free, confidential, non-judgemental advice and information to any HUSU student who may wish to speak to a professional about their drug use or drinking habits, and even for those looking for advice on how to support friends.
- c) If you need to talk in confidence to someone, you can make a confidential appointment by emailing [studentwellbeing@hull.ac.uk](mailto:studentwellbeing@hull.ac.uk) or calling 01482 462222.
- d) The Student Wellbeing Team also work closely with Renew, the local community drug and alcohol service. You can self-refer to Renew or ask one of the Student Wellbeing Team to make a referral on your behalf. Renew's practitioners can meet students at the Central Hub. To self-refer please visit: <https://www.changegrowlive.org/hull-renew/referrals>

### 4. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Next review date: April 2021