

Drug Use Policy

Introduction

Leeds University Union has adopted a harm reduction approach to drug use. While it is always stated that the safest way to avoid the risks of alcohol and drugs is to not consume them, it is acknowledged that drug usage occurs among student populations.

LUU is an independent organisation to the University so has different policies and procedures. The University of Leeds has a zero tolerance approach to illegal drug taking, meaning that if a student is found to be in possession of illegal substances or involved with illegal drug activities on campus, they may face disciplinary action, potentially including eviction from University halls of residence, suspension or expulsion from the University, or their activities being reported to the police. The University currently provides their alcohol and drug use information through a [booklet](#) and [webpage](#).

LUU's approach to students and drugs

1. LUU has a legal responsibility to prevent substance use and misuse within its premises. LUU will:
 - a. Promote student health and wellbeing by discouraging substance misuse;
 - b. Educate students of the potentially harmful effects of drug use;
 - c. Provide appropriate support or refer students to relevant professional organisations;
 - d. Invoke appropriate disciplinary procedures as detailed in [LUU Bye-Law 16](#) in relation to substance misuse in our venues, if deemed necessary.
2. LUU is committed to reducing the harm that its students may face and will:
 - a. Promote the health & wellbeing of students by actively sharing drug harm reduction material;
 - b. Provide access to drug harm reduction material through the Help and Support team;
 - c. Run alcohol and drug harm reduction events at key times of the year, with special attention being given to Freshers Week;
 - d. Deliver drugs training to Clubs and Societies;
 - e. Work in partnership with the University and West Yorkshire Police to ensure student wellbeing is first and foremost in the University's disciplinary procedures;
 - f. Engage with the wider drug harm reduction sector to look for ways LUU can support students.
3. Disciplinary action will be taken if necessary to safeguard students and staff. LUU's first response will always be one of support/signposting. More details can be found in the LUU Disciplinary Process ([LUU Bye-Law 16](#)).
4. Any student who uses drugs and wants support is encouraged to speak to LUU about this. Disciplinary processes will *not* be conducted as a result of you seeking support or advice from LUU *unless* the legal responsibility to prevent substance use and misuse within LUU premises is being compromised.

- a. Forward Leeds run a weekly drop-in at LUU, offering free and confidential advice about drugs. For details please see their [webpage](#).
- b. If you are concerned about your/someone else's' substance use, you can seek free and confidential support from LUU Advice on the ground floor of LUU (or via advice@leeds.luu.ac.uk).

Beliefs and principles behind our approach

1. LUU is responsible for providing a safe and healthy environment for all its students, staff and visitors, and will take action to safeguard their health and wellbeing.
2. LUU acknowledges that alcohol and nicotine are psychoactive drugs, however, these substances are not covered by this policy. LUU already has an [alcohol harm reduction](#) policy.
3. LUU does not condone the misuse of drugs. LUU does, however, understand that there are multiple reasons why students may use drugs and will look to provide support where possible.
4. The University of Leeds has its own policies and procedures in place for dealing with staff and student drug use. These apply on campus, in halls of residence, and also while not in university residences. Please be aware that some individual Schools have their own policies regarding illegal substance use.
5. LUU's duty of care towards its staff and students is determined externally by legislation such as the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, Human Rights Act (1998), Data Protection Act (1998), Disability Discrimination Act (1995) and Special Education Needs and Disability Act (2001), Children Act 2004.
6. This Policy:
 - a. Aims to enable LUU to fulfil its legal, educational, and caring responsibilities regarding drug use;
 - b. Recognises the possible misuse of over-the-counter and prescribed drugs;
 - c. Interacts with and may make reference to other Union and University policies and procedures.

Questions and review

Any questions or comments about this policy should be directed to helpandsupport@luu.leeds.ac.uk to be passed on to the responsible manager.

If you would like to access support for yourself or a friend, please contact LUU Advice via advice@leeds.ac.uk, or drop-in to the LUU Foyer and speak to a member of staff.

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Engagement and Development Committee on behalf of LUU Board. Next review is due October 2021.