

Accommodation Services

Alcohol and Drugs Misuse Policy

in University Owned Accommodation

Purpose Statement

Accommodation Services encourages you to live a safe and healthy lifestyle. Our policy aims to inform, educate and support you should drugs and alcohol affect you whilst living in University Owned Accommodation. In association with Newcastle University Students' Union (NUSU) and Student Wellbeing Service we will provide relevant information, advice, support and counselling for students about the risks that may result from the use of drugs and alcohol and where possible, how to minimize harm.

Applicability and Scope

This policy applies to all students in University Owned Accommodation and your guests. The Alcohol and Drugs Misuse Policy deals with the consequences of incidents that happen when illegal (including psychoactive) substances, alcohol and smoking are involved. This includes possession, use and sharing drugs with your friends and guests within the accommodation and grounds or being present in a room with someone who has or is using drugs. The supply or manufacture of drugs is treated very seriously by the University and includes giving or sharing illegal (including psychoactive) substances. The manufacture and supply of psychoactive substances is also illegal and is included in this policy. Medication prescribed by a doctor is exempt from the policy. Although alcohol is not illegal we define alcohol misuse as any drinking which makes you act in an inappropriate manner, interferes with the health and/or social conduct within accommodation or has a detrimental or harmful effect on the wider community. Read the appendix below on [Drugs, Newcastle University and you - what will happen if...](#)

Definition

Drugs/Illegal Substances: Illegal drugs which have limitations on their ownership or use meaning you are not allowed to have them. A drug is any chemical that affects the human body or mind when it is swallowed, inhaled, or consumed in another way. This includes, but is not limited to cannabis, mephedrone (MCAT), heroin, crack cocaine, MDMA, amphetamines (speed), ketamine and ecstasy.

Psychoactive substances: are substances with stimulant or mood-altering properties which affect your mental functioning or emotional state. This includes, but is not limited to nitrous oxide.

Alcohol: obtained from the fermentation of sugars and starches and also made artificially. It is the intoxicating ingredient of wine, beer, spirits, and other drinks.

Tobacco: a substance smoked in cigarettes and pipes that is prepared from the dried leaves of the tobacco plant.

E-cigarette: An electronic cigarette or e-cigarette is a handheld electronic device that creates an aerosol by heating a liquid. The user then inhales the aerosol. Using e-cigarettes is sometimes called vaping. The liquid in the e-cigarette, called e-liquid, is usually made of nicotine, propylene glycol, glycerine, and flavorings. Not all e-liquids contain nicotine.

Our responsibilities

- Any student found having used or suspected of having used illegal (including psychoactive) drugs will be provided with the necessary care and attention in relation to their physical condition. However, the University has a legal obligation to prevent the use of illegal substances on our premises and take appropriate Student Disciplinary and Police action will be taken when substances are found.
- We will remove and dispose of the items as they are banned within our accommodation
- Not to condone the excessive or harmful use of alcohol within our accommodation
- To treat disclosure of problematic substance use as a confidential matter and with sensitivity
- To inform and educate you of the consequences of possessing or taking illegal (including psychoactive) substances within University Owned Accommodation. This includes:
 - * the health risks and how to reduce harm
 - * the legal position and Police involvement
 - * the academic consequences
 - * possible expulsion from accommodation and the University
- To support, advise and refer you to Student Health & Wellbeing Service, if you are affected by an illegal or psychoactive substance
- To protect you from anti-social behaviour caused by illegal substances, psychoactive substances and alcohol misuse.
- To protect you from the effects of illegal (including psychoactive) substances use
- To educate you about responsible drinking and if available offer alcohol free accommodation
- To educate you about illegal (including psychoactive) substances uses and impact on your health
- To support, advise and refer you to ResLife and the IBA process and re-education awareness training
- To encourage a healthy lifestyle
- To promote a smoke free environment as part of the University Smoke Free Campus

Your responsibilities

- Not to take illegal (including psychoactive) substances into University Owned Accommodation and seek clarification where appropriate
- Not to give or share illegal (including psychoactive) substances with friends or guests, as this is classed as dealing even if no money changes hands
- Not to expose your flat mates to the effects of illegal (including psychoactive) substances within University Owned Accommodation
- Not to bring the University, its reputation and legal position into question by using illegal (including psychoactive) substances
- To drink responsibly and not behave in an antisocial manner
- To smoke in external designated areas only and not within our accommodation. This includes the use of E-cigarettes

Disciplinary process and outcomes

Illegal substances and Psychoactive Substances

If illegal (including psychoactive) substances are found on you, in your room or flat, or you are

present at an incident involving illegal (including psychoactive) substances, you will be required to attend a disciplinary investigatory meeting with an authorised person. The police will also be informed. Estate Security staff may provide body worn video to assist with the investigation where available. This may also be dealt with by Student Progress Service in some circumstances.

Alleged involvement in the supply or manufacture of illegal (including psychoactive) substances will be treated very seriously. Your case will be dealt with initially by Student Progress Service and potentially passed to a Student Disciplinary Committee. The police will also be informed.

If you are found guilty it is likely that you could face eviction from accommodation and, quite possibly, expulsion from the University.

If you receive notice to attend a disciplinary investigatory meeting or disciplinary meeting you should make this a priority. If you fail to engage with the disciplinary process, then a higher sanction may be imposed. An authorised person or disciplinary committee will hear the evidence and, if you are found guilty, a sanction will be applied according to the [Student Disciplinary Procedures](#).

You will also be required to attend a meeting with a member of the ResLife team to identify any support needs you might have, allow you to reflect on the consequences of your actions and to consider alternative behaviours to maintain a healthy lifestyle (This will be known as an IBA meeting or Identification and Brief Advice).

You will also be required to attend an awareness training session with a member of the ResLife team which will allow you to consider the effects and consequences of the use of drugs and alcohol to your health and the impact this might have on your programme of study and future employment.

Accommodation Services

Drugs, Newcastle University and you

What will happen if....

Drugs paraphernalia eg grinder, shisha pipes etc. are found in your bedroom

Residences/Security – will confiscate the items as they are banned within our accommodation and you will receive a caution letter; these will be returned at the end of your tenancy.

ResLife – attend an IBA meeting with a member of the ResLife team and a Re-Education Awareness training session

University – no action

You, or your invited guest, are found in possession of, or using psychoactive substances

Residences/Security – (in cases of simple possession) will remove and dispose of the items as they are banned within the accommodation under the Alcohol and Drugs Misuse Policy. You will receive a formal warning and a fine of £100 under Level 1 of University Disciplinary Procedures [Level 1 Disciplinary](#)

ResLife – attend an IBA meeting with a member of the ResLife team and a Re-Education Awareness training session

University – no action

Police – It is illegal to produce, supply, offer to supply, possess with intent to supply, and to either import or export psychoactive substances. Any such activity will be reported to the police.

You, or your invited guest, are found in possession of, or using illegal substances including cannabis

Residences/Security – will remove the substances and report the matter to the police, as well as the substances being handed to the Police for disposal. You will be required to attend a disciplinary meeting with the Residences management where depending upon the circumstances the outcome will be a suspended eviction and a fine of £100 under Level 1 of University Disciplinary Procedures [Level 1 Disciplinary](#)

Repeat offences will result in eviction from your accommodation.

Your details will be shared with Student Progress and Student Health & Wellbeing Teams for information purposes and to ensure that support for you is available if required.

ResLife – attend an IBA meeting with a member of the ResLife team and a Re-Education Awareness training session

University – reviewed on a case by case basis.

Police – The Police will investigate any matter of reported possession and may issue such sanction as is appropriate.

You, or your invited guest, are suspected of dealing in illegal substances (including psychoactive substances)

Residences/Security – where evidence of suspected dealing is found we will pass your details to Student Progress for investigation in conjunction with the Police. Your details will also be given to Student Health & Wellbeing Teams to ensure that support for you is available if required.

ResLife – attend an IBA meeting with a member of the ResLife team and a Re-Education Awareness training session

University – review on a case by case basis with potential for disciplinary under Level 2 of University Disciplinary Procedures. [Level 2 Disciplinary](#)

Police – The Police will robustly investigate any report of dealing in illegal (including psychoactive) substances