

Statement on the possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol

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Statement on the possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol

The University expects a standard of conduct from its students and staff that provides a safe and healthy environment for themselves and others and prohibits the possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs or unlawful supply of alcohol on its property or as part of any of its activities.

The University expects the conduct of its students and staff to be within the law on its property or as part of any of its activities. Students and staff are referred to the [Student Help](#) pages (1) on the Bristol University website that includes advice and support for those who are concerned about their own or someone else's drinking or drug use, as well as specific information from [Direct Gov](#) (2) detailing the legal sanctions for unlawful possession or distribution of illicit drugs, and alcohol and the law. In respect of illegal alcohol distribution it is an offence to supply alcohol to a person under 18 (except in limited circumstances) and reference is made to the [NHS UK](#) website (3) for a description of the health risks associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol.

Details of drug or alcohol counselling, treatment, or rehabilitation or re-entry programmes available to students or staff are found on the Student Help pages of the University website. Student counselling, treatment or rehabilitation maybe offered through Student Services and the NHS. The [Student Counselling Service](#) (4) also provides specific support to students dealing with drugs, alcohol and addiction. Students are also able to suspend their academic studies to provide them with a period of rehabilitation and recovery. Staff can access support from the Staff Counselling Service. Staff and students may also be referred to the University Occupational Health Service who can offer advice regarding where to get help and support, and also advise them and their manager or tutor on their fitness to work, study or practice and whether any phased return to work programmes are required. Members of staff are also granted reasonable paid time off to enable them to attend appointments, such as drugs counselling sessions.

The University will impose disciplinary sanctions on students and staff consistent with the law. Misconduct as defined in the Student Disciplinary Regulations include at 2.2a) any conduct which constitutes a criminal offence and a full list of penalties to be considered in respect of students is found within these regulations on the University website, including expulsion. Staff will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures and sanctions under Ordinance 28 (Conduct) or Ordinance 29 (Capability and Performance) as appropriate, which may result in a dismissal.

Staff and students may be reported to the Police if found taking, possessing or dealing in illegal drugs on University premises.

References

- (1) <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/studenthelp/>
- (2) http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/CrimeAndJustice/TypesOfCrime/DG_10027693
- (3) <http://www.nhs.uk/LiveWell/Alcohol/Pages/Alcoholhome.aspx>
- (4) <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/student-counselling/self-help/drugs/>