

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL POLICY

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Background

St George's Students' Union (SGSU) understands that attending university is not only an academic experience, but also provides individuals with crucial opportunities for engagement in non-academic activities, including social and recreational interactions.

SGSU is of the opinion that students are autonomous individuals, who are in control of their own choices and actions, including with regards to recreational drug and alcohol consumption.

The policy of SGSU is to **promote awareness and education** to aid students in making informed choices in relation to alcohol and recreational drugs. The Students' Union will also **signpost students to the University facilities and local services** available to those predisposed to, or suffering from, problematic drug and alcohol usage.

However, in order to protect the welfare of our members, and as a registered Charity required to comply with UK law, the Students' Union (along with St George's University) has a **zero tolerance policy** with regards to illegal drug use on Union (or University) premises, and also has a number of responsibilities as a licensed premises with regards to the sale and consumption of alcohol.

'Recreational' Drugs

Anybody found to be distributing, in possession of, or using controlled substances or illegal drugs on Union or University premises (which includes St George's Halls of Residence) will be disciplined under the relevant procedure, as both the Students' Union and the University have a zero tolerance policy with regards to illegal drug taking.

Any individual found to be distributing, or in possession of, controlled substances or illegal drugs within the Students' Union will be asked to leave immediately, and the University and other relevant authorities (including the police) will be informed. Under the University's disciplinary policy actions taken can include:

- Activities being reported to the police
- Exclusion from University Halls of Residence
- Suspension from studies
- Expulsion from St George's University

Separate to the University's disciplinary action, such individuals will also be subject to a ban from the Students' Union bar and licensed areas, and will be restricted from participating in any Students' Union events and activities. When implementing such measures the disciplinary procedures documented within the Students' Union Constitution will be followed. These procedures include the right to appeal.

Alcohol

The Students' Union Bar along with other rooms in Hunter Wing Level 2 are licensed spaces for the sale and consumption of alcohol under the Licensing Act 2003.

Only alcohol purchased from the Students' Union Bar may be consumed on Students' Union premises. Any student found to be consuming alcohol on Students' Union premises that has been purchased from outside the Students' Union Bar will have that alcohol confiscated and disposed of, and will be subject to a ban from the Students' Union bar and licensed areas.

The Students' Union Bar will not serve alcohol to any individual who is unable to provide a valid form of identification evidencing they are 18 years or older upon request.

The Students' Union Bar will refuse service of alcoholic products to those who appear to be intoxicated, and will either ask them to safely leave the premises, or encourage them to consume water/have a soft drink as appropriate.

Individuals considered to be intoxicated when observed by bar staff and/or security staff inside, outside or leaving our premises are informally assessed for risk of harm. If their demeanour causes sufficient concern for their safety that

person will be assessed further, and given appropriate assistance. This could include obtaining first aid where necessary.

Should any student, bar staff and/or security staff suspect a drink may have been spiked with alcohol or drugs (a criminal act), the Students' Union will provide support to the victim, investigate further to gain evidence, and report the incident to the University and the emergency services.

Support & Welfare services

The Students' Union will suggest appropriate support services to any student who reports concerns relating to their own drug or alcohol usage, or to students about whom others have raised concerns. This will be undertaken confidentially with no sharing of information to any other individuals or organisations, including the University.

A number of resources detailing welfare advice, NHS and Non-NHS treatment health resources are available from the Students' Union office. The University also provides a confidential self-referral counselling service, which does not disclose information to the University.

Any individual that is concerned for themselves or a friend regarding drug or alcohol usage should always seek advice. For any concerns about alcohol or drug related problems you can call Nightline on 0113 3801381 (listening service) or 0113 3801380 (information service). [Talk to Frank](#) has an A-Z of drugs and their effects online; and provides a confidential 24/7 helpline, available on 0800 77 66 00.

A comprehensive list of resources is detailed in an appendix to this policy.

Appendix 1:

Resources available for anyone concerned about drug or alcohol misuse

Drugs and Alcohol

- Addaction
<http://www.addaction.org.uk/>
- Frank
<http://www.talktofrank.com/>

Drugs

- Narcotics Anonymous
<http://www.ukna.org/>
- NHS Choices
<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/drugs/Pages/Drugshome.aspx>
- Release
<https://www.release.org.uk/>

Alcohol

- Alcoholics Anonymous
<http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/>
- Drink Aware
<https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/>
- NHS Choices
<http://www.nhs.uk/livewell/alcohol/Pages/Alcoholhome.aspx>