



UL Student Life Drugs Policy

INTRODUCTION

This policy has been produced to acknowledge that there is a culture of drug use amongst some students of the University of Limerick. UL Student Life (ULSL) does not condone drug use amongst its student members. ULSL does also not condone the possession, use or supply of illegal drugs at or on any premises under their responsibility. However, ULSL acknowledge that some students will partake in drug use. ULSL is committed to delivering a responsive service for its student members which provides non-judgemental and factual information, raises awareness of consequences, and promotes harm-reduction practices of drug use. ULSL endeavours to ensure that while students are engaged in learning at the University of Limerick, ULSL in turn, is a safe place for students to express or raise concerns around drug use while being treated in a respectful and professional manner.

DRUG POLICY STATEMENT

University of Limerick Student Life are committed to promoting a responsive and supportive environment for its members. In order to do so, we will:

- Highlight the potential health consequences of drug use, whilst promoting a harm-reduction information.
- Under the advice of the HSE and other professional bodies, ULSL endeavours to highlight and circulate information about the use of certain drugs which are deemed an immediate public health risk as a result of their dangerous composition.
- Raise awareness of both the legal and disciplinary implications surrounding illegal drug use.
- Provide a compassionate and discreet service to students who are seeking support or have concerns for either themselves or their friends whilst not breaching our duty of care to a student or the main student body of University of Limerick.
- Ensure Student Officers and support staff are adequately trained in basic drug awareness and brief intervention drug training.
- Will not abdicate responsibility or its duty of care towards students who either seek advice or support. Students who self-refer to the ULSU will be supported by either Student Officers or staff to the best of their abilities. Students who present with drug related issues will be offered referral to a service with expertise in the area of substance misuse for the benefit of their health and well-being.

- Support and guide students who are facing disciplinary action as a result of drug use in a non-judgemental and professional manner.
- Recognise that the student voice is critical in the dialogue surrounding the attitudes of drug use. This policy will be reviewed and will reflect any future evidenced based data (surveys, etc.) that is gathered or resulting from any student discourse that is facilitated by ULSL.
- ULSL is committed to providing a welcoming environment for student discussions surrounding drug use and attitudes towards same. ULSL will offer students this space and opportunity.
- Recognise that there is a wide range of diverse attitudes, values and experiences amongst its student members.
- ULSL is committed to ensuring equal opportunities for students and any discourse, campaigns, material used is reflective of this.

All students should be able to:

- Seek advice and support on a voluntarily basis if they are concerned about their drug use.
- Seek support or guidance if they have been asked to do so, including as part of a disciplinary sanction.
- Encourage other students to seek help if they have a problem.
- Access information about the potential impacts of substance abuse on finances, relationships, health, family and on wider society.
- Alert an appropriate member of staff to any problems they see developing within the University of Limerick, particularly where legal or health and safety concerns are an issue.
- In the case of emergency, alert the relevant health care authorities and providing any known information for their attention.

UL Student Life will:

- Act as a confidential self-referral facility for students.
- Adhere to confidentiality guidelines and the Data Protection Policy when a student presents for support for a drug related issue.
- Continue membership of regional drugs and alcohol forums, such as the Mid-West 3rd Level Drug and Alcohol Forum, and the Healthy Campus Steering committee.
- Offer information and advice about services available to students who seek help about their drug use.
- Provide and support educational events, harm reduction based awareness campaigns and activities that promote health and well-being in conjunction with other departments.
- Ensure that student-related policies reflect attitudes to drugs which are conducive to student well-being and adhere to the law.
- That this policy is regularly reviewed and updated at the end of each academic year.

- Continue to implement the relevant Clubs and Societies and Events procedures that are currently in place and to ensure that these are adhered to under this parent policy.

ULSL will encourage University of Limerick staff and its affiliates to:

- Have knowledge of the referral procedures and support services available for dealing with drug-related issues and signpost accordingly. This should be included in induction and staff training.
- Adhere to confidentiality guidelines and the Data Protection Policy when a student presents for support for a drug related issue.
- Liaise and communicate with ULSL regarding information and trends associated with drug use amongst UL students.
- Raise awareness of and support campaigns that centre on student welfare and well-being.
- Actively participate in creating and adopting its' own health-based drugs policy that is focused on education and support for staff and students.

Passed by ULSU Student Council 2018-2019

Chairperson _____

Date_____