

Smoking and Vaping Policy

Applicable from September 2025 to Present

Title: Smoking and Vaping Policy					
Version	Issue Date	Revision description	Author	Approved by & date	Next review date
1	Sept 2022	-	Liz Campbell	Academic Quality and Standards Committee: May 2022	May 2023
2	Sept 2023	Name of policy amended	Liz Campbell	Academic Quality and Standards Committee: May 2023	May 2024
3	Sept 2024	Rise in possible littering fine	Liz Campbell	Academic Quality and Standards Committee: May 2024	May 2025
4	Sept 2025	Update to University name and move to new template	-	Academic Quality and Standards Committee: July 2025	May 2026

Purpose of Policy	This policy prohibits smoking all substances (including electronic cigarettes and shisha pipes) in University buildings, areas designated as non-smoking and in University vehicles.
Internal services involved in authorship & implementation	Estates Services
Related University regulations, policies & guidance	None
Policy lead	Director of Estates
Equality impact assessment date	Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)
Data protection impact assessment date	Information Governance - Home

SMOKING & VAPING POLICY FOR STUDENTS

1. THE UNIVERSITY'S VIEWS ON SMOKING & VAPING

As part of its continuous review of health and safety matters, the University has considered the current evidence of the health risks associated with passive smoking, the legislation regarding smokefree workplaces, as well as the discomfort suffered by non-smokers exposed to tobacco smoke and vaping residues. The University seeks to maintain a healthy and comfortable studying environment for staff, students and visitors through the implementation of its Smoking & Vaping Policy.

2. POLICY STATEMENT ON SMOKING

1. The University operates a total ban on smoking in accordance with SmokeFree legislation and vaping throughout the University's buildings, prohibited areas as indicated directly outside of such buildings and in University owned or hired vehicles.
2. This smoking and vaping policy covers all substances that a person can smoke, inhale which produce smoke or vapour. These include manufactured cigarettes (vapes, e-cigarettes), hand-rolled cigarettes, pipes, cigars, herbal cigarettes and water pipes (including shisha or similar).

3. PRINCIPLES OF IMPLEMENTATION

1.1 Publicity and Signage

- 1.1.1. The University's policy on smoking and vaping shall be indicated on prominent notices displayed at the main entrances of all buildings.
- 1.1.2. Students smoking or vaping in prohibited areas will be asked politely to stop and advised that they are breaching University policy.
- 1.1.3. A refusal to stop is unacceptable and may be reported to the Dean of School to which that student belongs. It is the responsibility of the Dean of the School to take action for breaches of this policy by students within their particular school.

1.2 Support to Smokers

- 1.2.1. The University takes a positive attitude regarding the health and safety of all its students. Any student who smokes and wishes to use the no smoking policy as an opportunity to give up or cut down can access support from the NHS Stop Smoking Service, which includes information on free local Stop Smoking Services.
- 1.2.2. Students who experience difficulties in complying with this policy or need additional support may discuss this with the University's Wellbeing team, details of which can be found on the Support Pages of the Student Hub.

1.3 Smoking or vaping in the Open Air

- 1.3.1 Where study related activities such as external student placements are carried out on land owned by other external parties, smoking or vaping may be permitted in designated areas during break periods only if the policy of the external party allows for this. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that they comply with external party's smoking/vaping policy. A breach of that external party's policy shall be dealt with by the University as if it were a breach of this policy.
- 1.3.2 When permitted, smoking or vaping in the open air on University land must be undertaken away from areas of risk such as fuel storage tanks, chemical storage facilities and building entrances.
- 1.3.3 Smoking or vaping is not permitted immediately outside the entrances or open windows of any University buildings
- 1.3.4 It is important to note that cigarette butts are the number one littered item in England and fines of up to £500 can be issued for littering in a public space. As a unique form of litter - they are small, smelly and on fire - they must always be extinguished and disposed of in a designated receptacle e.g. cigarette butt bin which can be found across campus.

1.4 Enforcement of the Policy

- 1.4.1 As with other aspects of health and safety policy, all students have a responsibility to look after themselves and others and a duty to comply with this policy as part of the health and safety provisions of the University..
- 1.4.2 It is expected that students will co-operate voluntarily in making the policy work without the need for more formal measures to ensure its effectiveness. However, breaches of the policy may lead to disciplinary action and may leave the University open to criminal prosecution under smoke free legislation.
- 1.4.3 Students (and their permitted visitors) who do not comply with the implementation of smoke free legislation from the 1st of July 2007 may also be liable to a fixed penalty fine and possible criminal prosecution.

1.5 Visitors

- 1.5.1 To achieve the aim of a smoke and vapour free environment, this policy will also apply to visitors to all buildings. Should a student bring a visitor to the University, they should ensure that such visitors are made aware of the University's policy in relation to smoking and vaping and not allow them to smoke or vape in those areas in which Students of the University themselves are prohibited from smoking or vaping in under this policy.