



ULSU Drug 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. ULSU does not condone drug use amongst its student members. ULSU does also not condone the possession, use or supply of illegal drugs at or on any premises under their responsibility. However, ULSU accepts that some students will partake in drug use. ULSU is committed to delivering a responsive service for its student members which provides information, raises awareness and highlights the implications of drug use. ULSU endeavours to ensure that while students are engaged in learning at the University of Limerick, ULSU in-turn, is a safe place for students to express or raise concerns while being treated in a respectful and professional manner.

DRUG POLICY STATEMENT

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

- Highlight the potential health implications of drug use.
- Under the advice of the HSE and other professional bodies, ULSU 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.
- 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 sabbatical 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 potentially gathered or resulting from any student discourse that is facilitated by ULSU.

- ULSU is committed to providing the platform for student discussion surrounding drug use and attitudes towards same. ULSU will offer students this space and opportunity.
- Recognise that there is a wide range of diverse attitudes, values and experiences amongst its student members.
- ULSU 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, alerting the relevant health care authorities and providing any known information for their attention.

The Students' Union 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.
- Offer information and advice about services available to students who seek help about their drug use.
- Provide and support educational events, 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, where necessary.

The Students' Union will encourage University of Limerick staff 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 ULSU 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.
- Create and adopt its' own drug policy.

Passed by ULSU Student Council 2016- 2017

Chairperson _____

Date_____

DRAFT