**Student Drug Use Policy**

**Introduction**

The University of Surrey Students’ Union (USSU) does not condone or tolerate the use of illegal drugs in its venues. Cases heard at University of Surrey, and Students’ Union disciplinary panels is evidence that illegal drug use does occur at the University of Surrey.

**Aim of this policy**

One of the Students’ Union main charitable objects is “promoting the interests and welfare of students at The University of Surrey during their course of study”. It is in both the interests and welfare of students for the union to adopt a harm reduction approach through this policy to work towards lowering illegal drug use among University of Surrey students.

USSU is independent to the University of Surrey and therefore has different policies and procedures. The University of Surrey does not tolerate the misuse of drugs and students found to be involved in drug activity on campus may face disciplinary action. The University of Surrey’s ‘Misuse of Drugs by Students’ policy can be found [online.](https://surrey-content.surrey.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2019-03/misuse-of-drugs-by-students-policy_1.pdf%22%20HYPERLINK%20%22https:/surrey-content.surrey.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2019-01/misuse-of-drugs-by-students-policy-supporting-procedures.pdf)

**USSU’s approach to student drug use**

1. USSU has a legal responsibility to prevent illegal drug use within its premises. USSU will:
   1. Discourage drug misuse in the interest of student health and wellbeing;
   2. Inform students of the potentially harmful effects of drugs;
   3. Signpost students to relevant professional organizations;
   4. Invoke appropriate disciplinary procedures as detailed in [USSU Byelaw 43](https://my.ussu.co.uk/yourunion/Governing%20Documents/Constitution%20and%20Byelaws/Byelaws.pdf) in relation to drug misuse in the areas contained within the premises license.
2. USSU is committed to reducing drug related harm and will:
   1. Actively sharing drug harm reduction material;
   2. Run drug harm reduction events in collaboration with professional organizations;
   3. Make drug awareness training available to Clubs and Societies;
   4. Work in partnership with the University to ensure student wellbeing is first and foremost in the University’s disciplinary procedures;
   5. Engage with drug harm reduction organizations to look for further ways USSU can support students.
3. All USSU Events including Rubix operate a zero tolerance drugs policy in line with the premises license objective, prevention of crime and disorder. The premises license and operating manual takes precedence over this policy where appropriate.
4. Any student who uses drugs and wants support is encouraged to speak to USSU about this. USSU staff will be advised on appropriate services to signpost students to. Disciplinary processes will *not* be conducted as a result of a student seeking support or advice from USSU.

**Principles behind this approach**

1. USSU is dedicated to providing a safe environment for its members, and will take action to safeguard their health and wellbeing.

2. USSU acknowledges that alcohol and nicotine are drugs, however, these substances are not covered by this policy.

3. Whilst USSU does not condone the misuse of drugs, it is understood that there are multiple reasons why students may use drugs and USSU will look to provide support where possible.

4. The University of Surrey has its own policies and procedures in place for student drug use. These apply on campus, in halls of residence, and also while not in university residences. Please be aware that some individual Schools have their own policies regarding illegal substance use.

5. USSU’s duty of care towards its staff and members is determined externally by legislation such as the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, Human Rights Act (1998), Data Protection Act (1998), Disability Discrimination Act (1995) and Special Education Needs and Disability Act (2001), Children Act 2004.