



Alcohol Policy



University of Essex Students' Union Clubs and Societies Alcohol Policy

1. Introduction

1.1 The Students' Union is committed to providing a safe, healthy study and work and leisure environment that fosters and promotes the sensible consumption of alcohol.

1.2 The Students' Union recognises that the consumption of alcohol is for many students part of the 'student experience' and University life.

1.3 The Students' Union recognises its responsibilities associated with both the selling and provision of alcohol and will exercise its duty of care towards staff, students and others by ensuring that the consumption of alcohol on campus is managed responsibly and complies with the Licensing Act 2005.

2. Students' Union Policy

2.2 The Students' Union is committed to developing a social culture that promotes the sensible use of alcohol and offers suitable alternatives to those who prefer alcohol-free activities.

2.3 The Students' Union does not condone the misuse or abuse of alcohol and is committed to reducing the risks associated with alcohol use within its community. Whenever it is appropriate the University will take disciplinary action in response to unacceptable behaviour associated with the misuse or abuse of alcohol.

2.4 Where a student has engaged in aggressive, abusive or other anti-social behaviour in part as a result of the use of alcohol, this will in no way excuse the behaviour or mitigate the penalties imposed in so far as the application of the Students' Union Disciplinary Committee.

2.5 The Students' Union will ensure that bars located on the campus will be managed under license and conform to legal requirements.

2.6 The Students' Union will always encourage our customers to drink responsibly.

2.7 The Students' Union will always make sure that where alcohol is being served free water and soft drinks must be available to all customers in all bars.

2.8 The venues will provide plastic glasses to be used at any event and time where glass is considered a risk and for outdoor use.

3. Sports and Societies Policy

3.1 It should be remembered that groups of the Students' Union must at all times act to uphold the reputation of the Students' Union whether on campus or an alternative venue.

3.2 Where an event is being held on University owned premises, the Students' Union Sports and Societies should abide by the Students' Union Alcohol Policy and the University of Essex Alcohol and Drug Policy.

3.3 Students who are very drunk must not be encouraged to drink more alcohol.

3.4 Where a student needs to go to hospital due to alcohol consumption, they must be accompanied by a responsible person. Any hospital visits of this nature must be reported to the Students' Union Deputy Chief Executive.

3.5 Sports and Societies must not highlight drugs or alcohol as the main reason for attending an event. Publicity should indicate that there will be non-alcoholic drinks available at the event.

3.6 All promotional activity will ensure that we market and promote events containing alcohol responsibly and that there will be no active promotion of drinking games.

4. Minibus Policy

4.1 Any student who is driving members of a Students' Union Societies/Society as part of an event must not consume any alcohol prior to driving. Blood alcohol levels should be zero during all driving activities; alcohol should not be consumed in the eight hour period prior to driving.

4.2 When travelling on provided transport (i.e. Minibuses, coaches or cars), no alcohol is permitted to be carried onto/consumed on board at any time. Failure to comply with this rule invalidates our insurance and is against the law above all.

4.3 The designated driver of the vehicle has the authority to refuse entry onto the vehicle or refuse to drive, if any member's behaviour is deemed unacceptable. Disciplinary action will be taken against any student who is reported by the designated driver.

5. Initiations

An initiation and/or Mothers and Daughters/Fathers and Sons is an event in which members (often new members) of the societies are expected to perform any activity as a means of gaining credibility, status or entry into that society. The peer pressure is normally (though not explicitly) exerted on first year members or members new to that particular societies and may involve the consumption of alcohol, eating concoctions of various food stuffs, nudity and any behaviour that may be deemed humiliating.

The following guidelines are in place to protect the students:

5.1 Drinking/Initiations are opt-in only and shall have no bearing on any team/squad selection.

5.2 A non-alcoholic alternative must be provided throughout.

5.3 Members of Sports Federation and the Societies Guild will not apply what may be perceived as peer pressure upon individuals in any social situation this extends to any 'tradition' within the societies.

5.4 The committee of each society is responsible for the welfare of all society members and must take the necessary measures to ensure that an adequate level of safety is maintained at all times.

6. Bar/Pub Crawls

The University of Essex Students' Union does not support organised bar crawls— whether they take place on the high street or in Student Union venues. Bar/Pub Crawls contribute to the negative image of the student binge drinker, can worsen social tensions in the local community and can be dangerous to Students' health and well-being.

The following guidelines are in place to protect the students:

6.1 Students should not be expected or forced to consume alcohol at each venue.

6.2 Students should remember that they are representatives of the University when in the local community and therefore act accordingly.

6.3 The committees are responsible for the actions of their members whilst on the bar crawl therefore should make sure that their actions are kept under control.

7. Breaches of Code of Conduct

Breaches in this policy may result in a disciplinary hearing, carried out by the University of Essex Students' Union Disciplinary Committee. The Disciplinary Committee will be made up of staff and Officers from the Students' Union and the University where applicable.

In less severe cases the Student Activities Sabbatical Officer and Student Activities and Development Manager will determine the disciplinary action to be taken.

Any breach of the procedure will result in one or more of the following:

- 7.1 20% fine of the Societies account
- 7.2 Removal of Individuals from BUCS Competition
- 7.3 Removal of teams from BUCS Competition
- 7.4 Individual Expulsion from the Societies Guild
- 7.5 Societies Expulsion from the Societies Guild

If any incidents occur at the end of a season, the sanctions may be levied for the following year.

To be signed by the society or club President.

By signing this, you acknowledge and accept the terms and conditions of the alcohol policy.

Name:

Signature: