

Drug and Alcohol Misuse by Students

UPR SA11 version 04.0

Policies superseded by this document

This document replaces version 03.0 of UPR SA11, with effect from 1 September 2026.

Summary of significant changes to the previous version

No substantive changes from the previous version. The Secretary and Registrar signature has been updated following a change in postholder.

Glossary

A glossary of approved University terminology can be found in [UPR GV08](#).

POLICY STATEMENT

- 1 The University of Hertfordshire takes very seriously its legal responsibility for the health, safety and welfare of all its students, and is committed to promoting a supportive learning environment that will enable all of them to fulfil their potential.
- 2 The University of Hertfordshire operates a policy of zero tolerance in relation to the supply of illegal drugs. Whether alleged or proven, cases involving the supply of illegal drugs (dealing) will be referred to the Police. The student concerned will also be subject to disciplinary action.
- 3 The use of illegal drugs will be reported to the Police. The student concerned will also be subject to disciplinary action.
- 4 Encouraging others to take drugs is a disciplinary offence.
- 5 The University of Hertfordshire operates a policy of zero tolerance in relation to the excessive use of alcohol and students who abuse alcohol in this way will be subject to disciplinary action.
- 6 The following are also disciplinary offences and may also be criminal offences:
 - i encouraging others to misuse alcohol;
 - ii spiking the drinks of others;
 - iii serving alcohol to someone who is already intoxicated;
 - iv serving alcohol to someone who is under age.
- 7 In circumstances where a student's behaviour is persistently troublesome, disruptive or causes risk to others as a result of the misuse of drugs or alcohol, he

or she may be required to obtain a medical assessment and/or to agree to seek help with their substance misuse as a condition of continuing with their studies at the University.

- 8 When drug or alcohol misuse threatens or harms others, the welfare of the person against whom that behaviour is directed will take priority. The use of drugs or excessive use of alcohol will not be accepted as justification for threatening or irresponsible behaviour.
- 9 Students should be aware that the misuse of drugs and alcohol could affect their future employment and career. For example, it might mean that they cannot practice as a lawyer, teach or be a Health practitioner.
- 10 The University is committed to protecting and promoting freedom of speech and academic freedom within the law. The University's Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech (UPR FS01) sets out the rights and obligations inherent in supporting the principles of freedom of speech and academic freedom within the law, the University's values relating to freedom of speech and the procedure to be followed by students and staff in connection with the organisation of events and meetings which fall under the Code of Practice. A copy of the University's Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech (UPR FS01) can be found here [\[FS01-Freedom-of-Speech-Code-of-Practice.pdf\]](#) on the University's Policies and Regulations webpage. In the event of any uncertainty about the University's approach to freedom of speech, the University's definitive and up-to-date statement of its approach is set out in the Code of Practice.

Dr Matthew Andrews
Secretary and Registrar
Signed: **1 August 2026**

Alternative format

If you need this document in an alternative format, please email us at governanceservices@herts.ac.uk.