



LONDON SCHOOL
OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Substance Misuse Policy

Version 1.0

Approved by the Board of Governors

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This policy sets out the School's commitment to providing a safe and supportive environment for study and work. On its premises, LSST specifically prohibits the use and distribution of illegal drugs by students and does not allow consumption of alcohol or illicit drugs.

2. SCOPE

2.1. This policy encompasses alcohol, drugs regulated by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016, and unauthorised use of prescription medicines regulated by the Medicines Act 1968.

2.2. This policy applies to all students at LSST campuses and taking part in LSST events.

2.3. LSST staff are directed to the Staff Code of Conduct, owned by Human Resources, that relates to staff and other workers on its sites.

2.4. Reference should also be made to the LSST Safeguarding Policy.

3. THE LEGAL CONTEXT

3.1. Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. LSST is legally bound under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, making it a criminal offense to knowingly allow the use, production, or supply of controlled drugs on its premises.

3.2. Psychoactive Substances Act 2016. LSST must also adhere to the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016, prohibiting the knowing permission for the production, supply, import, or export of any substance intended for psychoactive effects. Exemptions include nicotine, alcohol, caffeine, medicinal products, and substances controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act.

3.3. Health and Safety Compliance. LSST, mandated by the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, is committed to ensuring the health and safety of employees, students, and others. Smoking, including e-cigarettes and vapes, is prohibited within LSST premises, aligning with the smoking ban enforced since July 1, 2007.

4. LSST'S COMMITMENTS

4.1. LSST recognises the role of alcohol, drugs, and other substances in some students' lives, but is committed to preventing adverse effects on health and safety, teaching, learning, the Campus environment, and the student experience.

4.2. LSST is committed to:

- Fostering mutual respect in our communities.



- Cultivating students' understanding of acceptable behaviour.
- Assisting students in informed decisions about alcohol, drugs, and other substances.
- Acknowledging the link between responsible behaviour and a positive learning experience.
- Prioritising its legal responsibility for the health and safety of students, staff, and visitors.
- Providing guidance on the actions to be taken regarding substance misuse.

5. DEFINITION OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE

- 5.1. Substance misuse encompasses the consumption or dealing of illegal or controlled drugs, including new psycho-active substances ('legal highs').
- 5.2. Occasional or habitual excessive drinking of alcohol is also considered substance misuse.
- 5.3. Criteria for identifying substance misuse include impairment of sound judgment, unacceptable conduct, disruption in the learning environment, bringing the School into disrepute, or endangering the health and/or safety of oneself or others.

6. HOW SUBSTANCE MISUSE WILL BE ADDRESSED

- 6.1. Use of drugs or alcohol away from LSST premises but resulting in disruption, or unacceptable conduct or in antisocial behaviour on LSST premises or in class, will be addressed under the LSST Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures. Examples of such disruption include students or their clothing or bags smelling of alcohol or drugs, and students being under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- 6.2. Through appropriate safeguarding and welfare practices, the School will take a supportive role toward students who have or display elements of alcohol and/or illegal drug abuse or dependency behaviour. However, prohibited substances are not at all permitted at our campuses, nor at any School related events.
- 6.3. 'Prohibited substances' include alcoholic drinks as well as other substances such as a drug that is banned or forbidden by law or other authority. Students found to be in possession of prohibited substances, especially those prohibited by law can be liable to a charge of gross misconduct and risk exclusion from the School as a whole.
- 6.4. Where substance misuse gives rise to safeguarding concerns, or where there is reason to believe that a student may be vulnerable to exploitation, or criminal activity, the School may refer the matter to safeguarding agencies or act in accordance with its statutory obligations under the Safeguarding duty.



6.5. Please see the LSST Student Codes of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures for further information on how substance misuse will be addressed.

7. SUPPORT

7.1. Information and Guidance

7.1.1. The LSST Wellbeing team will provide information and guidance to students for informed decisions about the use of drugs, alcohol, and other substances. The Team will also support students by signposting to external agencies and sources of information.

7.2. Safeguarding

7.2.1. LSST has a duty of care to all staff and students and operates a Safeguarding presence at each LSST site. Students may refer themselves or be referred to the Designated Safeguarding Officers if they are perceived to be vulnerable or at risk.

7.3. Rehabilitation Programmes

7.3.1. LSST will support students undertaking a rehabilitation programme by implementing appropriate reasonable adjustments. Students are encouraged to contact the Wellbeing team to discuss.

8. CONFIDENTIALITY

8.1. Students' discussions with staff about substance misuse will normally remain confidential. However, this is subject to any overriding legal obligations or in cases where there may be risk to the student or others.



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