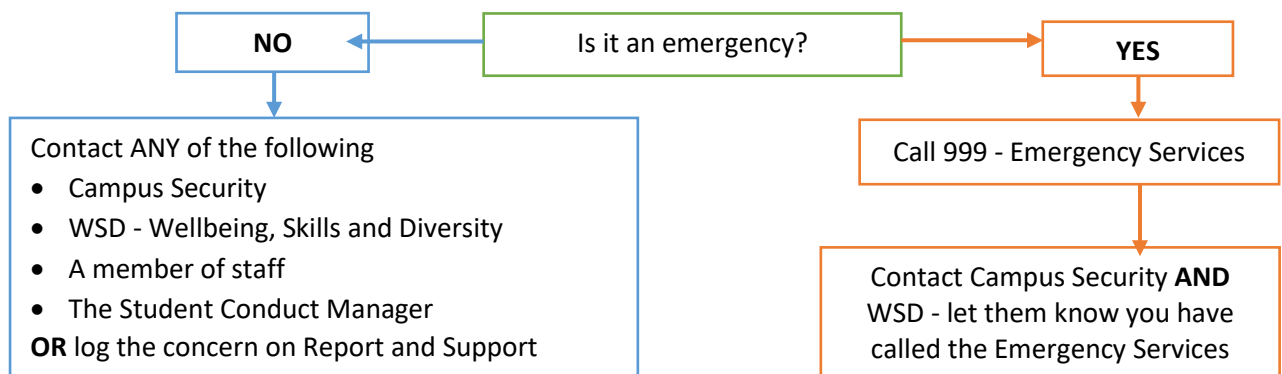


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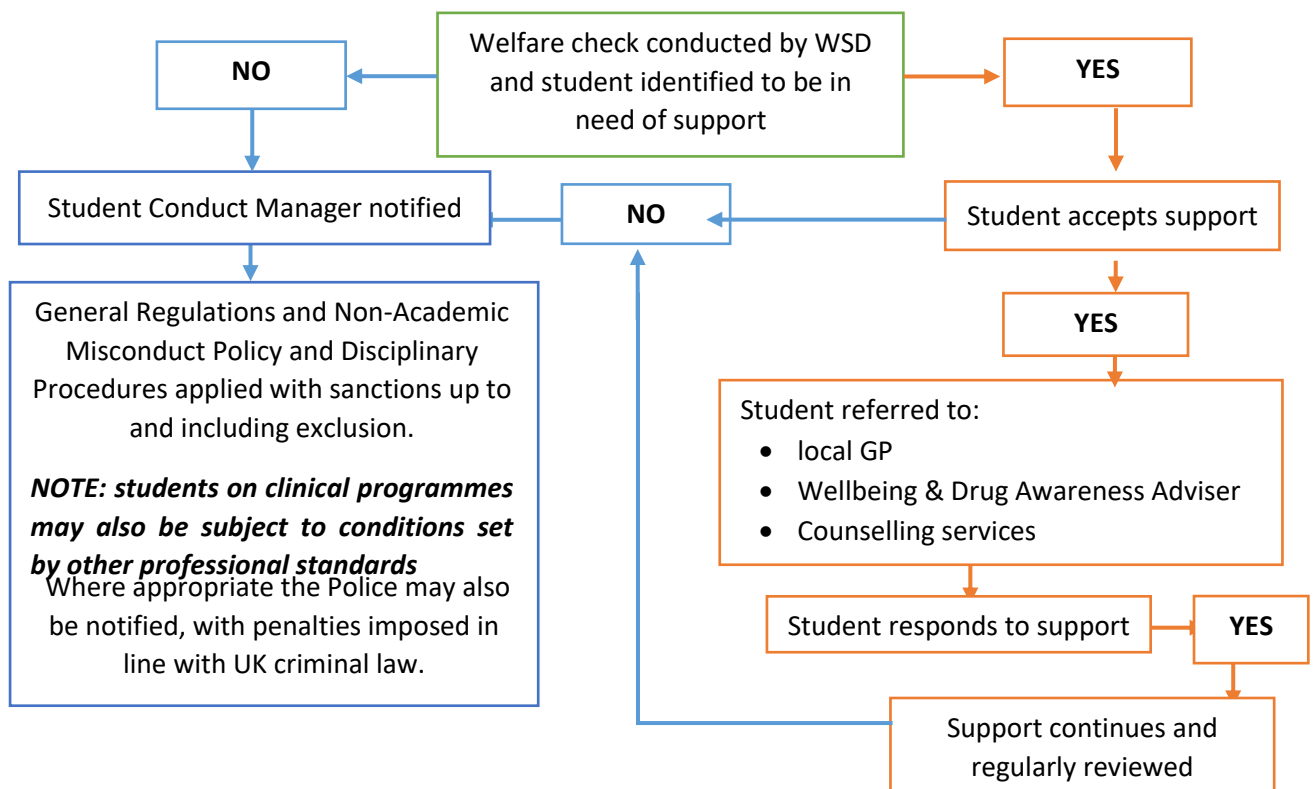
Drugs, Alcohol and Other Substances Policy, 2022

Click the above link to access the full policy

Stage 1: What to do in the event of an alcohol, drugs or substance concern



Stage 2: What happens once a concern has been reported?



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If drugs are illegal, why do you offer support?

The University does not condone nor encourage the use of drugs and is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment to all our students. Our approach to drug use is aimed at reducing harm by guiding students to make more informed, safer and healthier choices. It is important that all students also understand the potential health and safety risks arising from using drugs and other harmful substance given the close proximity of rivers with some of the University's social areas.

Is cannabis legal in the UK?

No, cannabis and other substances are illegal in the UK and covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.

Can I smoke cannabis in the privacy of my own room?

For Health & Safety reasons, smoking of any kind is not allowed in any rooms. This is included in the University Accommodation Contract.

If you are found to be smoking drugs in your room, you will be reported to the Student Conduct Manager and asked to meet with the Wellbeing & Drugs Awareness Adviser. Depending on the outcome of investigations, sanctions may be applied as per the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Disciplinary Procedures.

Can I speak to someone at the University regarding my drug use?

YES! You can email Wellbeingskillsanddiversity@buckingham.ac.uk for an appointment. You can also submit a [REPORT & SUPPORT form](#). You should receive an appointment within one week.

I have been approached on University premises to buy drugs – what do I do?

- If you feel comfortable and it is safe to do so, contact Security
- Report this via [REPORT & SUPPORT](#) (named or anonymously)
- E-mail wellbeingskillsanddiversity@buckingham.ac.uk

What happens if I am reported for drug use on more than one occasion?

In circumstances where a student is already known to the Student Conduct Manager for repeated drug and or alcohol related incidents, the student will be invited to meet with both the Student Conduct Manager and the Wellbeing & Drug Awareness Adviser. If necessary, the student's name will be given to the Police. For students on clinical programmes, repeated or persistent behaviour connected to drugs and alcohol could lead to fitness to practice proceedings.

If I am reported for drug use, will it reported to my School?

No - your School will not be involved. However if your School initially raised the concern, they will be involved.

Can I be 'drug' tested and what happens if I refuse?

There are 3 occasions which may require a student to be drug tested.

- A student is engaging with the Wellbeing & Drug Awareness Adviser.
- A School has concerns regarding a student's use of drugs and requests a test/report.
- A student's room is searched upon suspicion of drug activity.

Although voluntary, there is a level of expectation that students will choose to co-operate. If, as a student of the University you choose to refuse, your details will be passed to the Student Conduct Manager and, under some circumstances, details passed to the Police.

If I am found to be involved in 'dealing' - what happens to me?

The University considers this to be a criminal offence and breach of the University's Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Disciplinary Procedures. Anyone found to be dealing drugs on University premises will be reported to the Police.

Under the University's Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Disciplinary Procedures, sanctions could be imposed up to, and including exclusion. In addition to sanctions imposed through the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Disciplinary Procedures, students on clinical programmes may also be subject to conditions set by the General Medical Council, Medical School Council or the Medical School's Concerns Process. In some cases, repeated or persistent behaviour connected to drugs and alcohol could lead to fitness to practice proceedings.

Is there support available for drug misuse?

Well done for reaching out. Whether you or someone you know needs help, here are some options:

- Contact the University GP. You can register here: <https://www.theswanpractice.co.uk/>
- E-mail wellbeingskillsanddiversity@buckingham.ac.uk for an appointment
- [NHS Drug & Alcohol service](#)
- www.talktofrank.com

What age can I buy/drink alcohol?

You should be 18 or over. Under UK law, you may be fined or arrested by the Police if you're under 18 and drinking alcohol in public. If you're 16 or 17 and accompanied by an adult, you can drink (**but not buy**) beer, wine or cider with a meal.

If you are under 18 when you register with the University, you will receive an email outlining UK laws around alcohol for your information and safety.

Can I make a home-brew kit in my room?

No, brewing or distilling of alcohol is not permitted on University premises.

Can my room be searched?

Yes, staff have the authority to search your room if there is reason to believe that there is/has been drug activity, brewing or distilling of alcohol is/has been taking place. On occasions, this could include the use of 'sniffer' dogs. At this time, a drug test will be requested.

If I speak to someone about my substance use, will the Police be informed?

No, all support is CONFIDENTIAL with information only shared as deemed necessary, in the interest of the individual concerned.

What happens if I don't want to accept any support offered?

Of course, it is your choice whether to accept support but any substance misuse concerns being experienced are likely to escalate and will affect all aspects of your life, including your studies. This may impede your academic achievement and result in failing your degree.

Refusal to undertake appropriate treatment or counselling may result in immediate expulsion.