

The University of Queensland Union College

Drugs other than Alcohol

Policy & Procedure

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Notes:

Contents

Purpose and Scope	3
Commitment to an Educative Approach	3
Smoking and Vaping.....	3
Seeking assistance	3
Procedures.....	4
Safe Storage	4
Medicinal cannabis	4
Harm Minimisation	4
Responding to incidents of drug use, possession or dealing by a Union College student	5
Review	5

Purpose and Scope

Union College fosters a safe living and learning environment where every student, staff member, visitor and invited guest is expected to be respectful and considerate of others. The College's *Resident Code of Conduct* establishes a standard by which you are expected to conduct yourself and should be referred to in relation to this policy.

The College prohibits the use of illegal substances and misuse of prescribed medications and other substances e.g., nitrous oxide. It operates on the principle that members of the College community are adults and are responsible for what they consume. The use of such substances can have significant consequences for individual health and wellbeing. Drug use does not diminish a resident's personal responsibility for observing the Resident Code of Conduct and other policies.

All activities at Union College are subject to the relevant Commonwealth and State laws, and the College's own policies and procedures. Consequently, the College does not condone the use of any prescribed drugs for purposes other than those specified by a medical practitioner. The use of illegal substances by any student, staff member or visitor on the College premises or attending a college event is a serious matter. The sale or dealing of an illegal substance or prescribed substance by a college resident will not be tolerated.

This policy applies to all Union College residents and staff, their visitors and invited guests, on college grounds. It relates equally to those attending and/or participating in college events and activities held outside college grounds. Everyone covered by this policy is responsible for familiarising themselves with and adhering to this policy as well as being responsible for their own behaviour.

This policy also outlines support services available to assist you with drug-related problems. Where there is drug misuse, you will be supported to seek professional help and advice.

Commitment to an Educative Approach

The College will raise awareness by educating its residents in the harmful effects of drug misuse including harm minimisation strategies. Consequently, residents will be required as a condition of residency, to complete an on-line seminar detailing responsibilities and expectations in relation to drug use.

Smoking and e-cigarettes

The College is committed to supporting you if you have an addiction to tobacco or vaping products.

Smoking or vaping is only permitted in the designated area: on Upland Road at the front of the campus. Under no circumstances is smoking or vaping permitted in your room, any building, or in any public space at the College. The University of Queensland campuses are all smoke-free.

Electronic cigarettes and electronic cigarette products which contain nicotine are illegal in Queensland, unless on prescription and provided by a pharmacist or through Therapeutic Goods Administration processes.

Seeking assistance

The College encourages anyone who is concerned about themselves or their peers to seek support as soon as possible, so that they can be helped and supported.

You are encouraged to seek support from the Deputy Head of College if you feel you have a problem with drugs, smoking, or vaping.

Aside from the sources of support at college, there are many other support services related to drug use and addiction. In strict confidence, support persons at college can assist anyone affected to access these services.

- Alcohol and Drug Support QLD (Adis) 1800 177 833 (Confidential advice/counselling)

If you have any questions about this policy, please do not hesitate to contact the Head of College via email (to be developed) at headofcollege@unioncollegeuq.com.au

- Headspace
- The University of Queensland counselling services
- Queensland University of Technology (QUT) counselling service
- Griffith University counselling and wellbeing services
- Emergency assistance (including police & ambulance): phone 000
- Non-urgent police assistance: phone 131 444
- Legal Aid QLD
- Drug Arm

Procedures

Safe Storage

If you are prescribed medications by your doctor that can be used for non-medical reasons, the College understands that this is private information and suggests that you:

- Keep medications in a locked box in their room.
- Keep this information private and do not inform other residents or visitors of your medications unless that person is supporting you with your medical condition.
- Consider informing the Deputy Head of College. This information will be kept confidential.
- Report theft or misplacement of these medications to the College and police immediately.

Medicinal cannabis

In Queensland, medicinal cannabis is legal for possession and use by individuals if it is lawfully supplied to them, for example, prescribed by a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner who has the necessary Commonwealth authority/approvals.

The method prescribed by the prescriber for using medicinal cannabis may vary (e.g., in liquid form or by inhalation) Although it is not an offence under the Medicines and Poisons Act 2019 (Qld) for a Union College resident to use medicinal cannabis in these varying ways, there may be some other considerations, e.g., using medicinal cannabis with a personal vaporiser in a smoke-free area may be an offence under the , Union College Code of Conduct, or your university's by-laws.

Off-prescription or illicit cannabis use, growing your own cannabis, and recreational use of cannabis is still illegal under the *Commonwealth Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 (Commonwealth)*, *Narcotic Drugs Act 1967 (Commonwealth)*, and *Queensland Drugs Misuse Act 1986*.

Users of illicit cannabis may be subject to drug offences under the *Drugs Misuse Act 1986* including unlawful possession, supply, production, and trafficking of a dangerous drug.

Please note that the information provided is current as of the time of writing and may be subject to change. For more information, please visit the official website of Queensland Health. [Medicinal cannabis legislation and compliance | Queensland Health](#)

Harm Minimisation

In dealing with instances of drug use by residents, the College will always remain compliant with Australian law. We understand that consuming illegal drugs and misuse of prescription medication has the potential to affect decision-making and the personal safety of all residents. However, our primary priority will always be the health and safety of residents through harm minimisation approaches and behaviour management procedures activated once any immediate danger has been addressed.

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The College may as part of its duty to protect the safety of all residents impose consequences for misconduct where necessary, in line with the *Addressing Concerns and Complaints Policy*.

Visitors to College found to be using, selling, or dealing illegal substances will be asked to leave and be banned from College. They may also be reported to the relevant authorities.

Responding to incidents of drug use, possession or dealing by a Union College student

If a resident of the College is suspected of using, selling, or dealing in illegal substances or misusing, selling, or dealing in prescribed substances, the Head of College or Deputy Head of College should be notified as soon as possible.

Residents found to be selling, dealing, or coercing others into taking illegal substances will be immediately suspended and may face expulsion, in accordance with the *Resident Code of Conduct* and College policies.

Review

This policy and procedure will be reviewed each year, prior to publication alongside the Resident Handbook and on the College website, to ensure that it is compliant with best practice management and the College's legal obligations.