

Student Drugs Policy

Approved by	Strategic Planning and Resources Group		
Date approved	6 January 2012	Status	Approved
Policy owner	Vice Principal (External Relations & Student Experience)	Impact assessed	YES
Version	1	Date of next	As required

STUDENT DRUGS POLICY

1. Purpose of Policy

- 1.1 The Robert Gordon University is committed to promoting the wellbeing of its students to ensure that students maximise their academic potential.
- 1.2 The University recognises the negative impact that illegal drugs may have upon an individual's physical and mental health. As well as the danger of addiction, drug misuse has serious health risks and is associated with a wide range of conditions and complications, both physical and psychological. For example, cocaine can cause heart failure and heroin can cause respiratory failure (loss of normal lung function), both of which can be fatal.
- 1.3 As such, the University aims to prevent drug related problems through education, information and positive action and, where this fails, has mechanisms in place to ensure students are supported through appropriate referral to internal specialists, such as student counsellors or external stakeholders such as local drug prevention organisations.

2. The legal Context and Non Academic Misconduct

- 2.1 The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 is intended to prevent the non-medicinal use of medicinal drugs as well as drugs with no current medicinal uses. Offences under the Act include:
 - Possession of a controlled drug unlawfully;
 - Possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply it;
 - Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug (even where no charge is made for the drug).
- 2.2 To this end, students of the University are not permitted to engage in illegal activities related to intoxicating substances. Where this is the case, the University reserves the right to refer the matter to the police. Such illegal activities might include:
 - Students possessing, storing, trading or selling illegal drugs on the University's premises;
 - Students engaging in an illegal activity associated with drug abuse (e.g. driving whilst under the influence);
 - Students engaging in any other associated activities outside of University that may bring the University's reputation into disrepute.
- 2.3 Notwithstanding reporting the matter to the police students may be subject to a Non Academic Misconduct investigation (*under A3, Section 2 paragraph 6.2.1: Student Misconduct Procedure of the*

Academic Regulations) which could ultimately result in expulsion from the University whereby:

“An allegation of non-academic misconduct concerning a student’s conduct as an enrolled student of the University, may refer to any actions or activities engaged in, or services and facilities enjoyed, as a student of the University, or in the vicinity of any premises owned, leased or managed by the University.” Non academic misconduct may involve “conduct relating to (though not limited to) conduct that brings or could bring, the reputation of University, or associated professional, statutory and/or regulatory bodies, into disrepute.”

3. Supporting Students with Drugs Related Problems

- 3.1 The University recognises substance addiction as a problem that can be treated and is concerned about the health and wellbeing of its students. As such the University will adopt a supportive approach when dealing with students who have a substance abuse problem. Students will be encouraged to seek help and assistance from, amongst others, the Student Counselling and Wellbeing Service and the Nurse Practitioner, part of the Student Services Department. Where the assistance of specialist support is deemed to be appropriate, the University shall refer the student to external partners and stakeholders such as the student’s GP and / or local drugs prevention team.