



Dublin City University Student Alcohol Policy May 2011

Dublin City University recognises the place of moderate alcohol consumption and considers it important to support an environment which promotes a sensible attitude to the consumption of alcohol by students.

The University also recognises the potential of alcohol abuse to adversely affect students' well-being, academic achievement and lifestyle.

DCU has a clear '**no drugs**' policy and offenders will be subject to disciplinary procedures.

The Student Alcohol Policy adheres to the guidelines contained in the National Alcohol Policy (1996) and was formulated and adopted by DCU in 2011.

The abuse of alcohol respects no boundaries of gender, status and occupation and the policy applies equally to all students without discrimination.

The specific objectives of this policy include:

- Promoting the health and well being of students
- Promoting personal responsibility and social obligation to the campus community and to the local community
- Enhancing a campus environment where low-risk drinking is the "social norm"
- Providing an atmosphere free from pressure to drink for those who choose not to drink
- Providing alcohol-related information and education for all students
- Supporting and promoting alternatives to drinking – thus creating choice and a balanced social programme.

Individual students, student Clubs and Societies, the Students' Union and other student groups have responsibilities to ensure that the health of students, their ability to study and engage in extra curricular activities and their academic environment are not adversely affected by the use of alcohol. To this end the following regulations apply:

- Advertising for events must not mention the availability of alcohol
- Consumption of alcohol in public places on campus is prohibited
- Receptions or functions providing alcoholic drinks must also provide soft drinks and no more than two complimentary alcoholic drinks can be made available to any member
- Being under the influence of alcohol will not excuse a student's behaviour or exempt them from disciplinary procedures.

Student Alcohol Guidelines

Controls with respect to advertising, promotions & sponsorship:

- Recruitment by student Clubs and Societies should not identify access to free or cheap alcohol as an incentive to membership
- The advertisement of specific events by student Societies/Clubs should not identify access to free or cheap alcohol as an incentive to attendance
- No events should be organised which encourage the rapid consumption of alcohol, nor should alcohol be awarded as a prize or reward for competitive events
- The Office of Student Life will encourage the Students' Union and Clubs and Societies to develop and promote alcohol-free programmes involving cultural, social and entertainment activities for students
- All forms of advertising should adhere to DCU's Poster Policy. In this respect, the University complies with the guidelines contained in the National Alcohol Policy
- Student Clubs and Societies that have as their main focus or indicate by the name of the society their main activity to be the consumption of alcohol, will not be recognized as a Society/Club and will not receive funding
- Sponsorship by the drinks industry of events is permissible, provided the sponsorship is primarily in monetary form and not in product material form, thus allowing groups, clubs and societies to determine their own needs. (National Alcohol Policy, 1996)
- Alcohol advertising and promotions on campus are limited to the advertising of brand names of beer, stout, spirits or the name of the manufacturers. The Alcohol brand names should not be the main focus of the poster. In the negotiating or planning of off-campus events that involve the consumption of alcohol, the event organizer must acquire the assurance of the proprietor that they will adhere to the National Alcohol Policy and state law in consumption of alcohol on their premises
- The DCU Alcohol Policy is made available in the A - Z Guide given to all students upon entry to the University and on the DCU website
- The DCU Alcohol Policy is included in the Student Handbook and is mentioned during the student Orientation Programme.

Students breaching this policy will be subject to the University's Disciplinary Procedures, which can be found at:

www.dcu.ie/info/regulations/pdf/discipline.pdf