



Misuse of Substances Statement

INTRODUCTION

1. New College of the Humanities (the College) has a responsibility to uphold the law. The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 requires the College to do what is reasonable to protect the health and safety of staff, students and visitors. All students have a legal responsibility to take care of their own safety and that of others.
2. The College aims to balance respect for the privacy and freedom of individual students with the imperatives of compliance with the law and maintenance of a safe, productive and legal environment in the best interests of its students.
3. Misuse of substances:¹
 - 3.1. Is used here to describe the possession, possession with intent to supply, use, trade, distribution, selling, offering for sale and purchase of substances such as alcohol, controlled drugs, and psychoactive substances, and the use of study drugs and other prescription drugs that have not been legally obtained or used in a manner or for a purpose other than as prescribed, that may adversely affects a student's health, work, study or social activity.
 - 3.2. Applies to students on College premises or elsewhere on College business or study activities.
4. The College:
 - 4.1. In no way condones the misuse of substances and will balance disciplinary action with appropriate support for students who misuse them.
 - 4.2. Aims to facilitate the early identification of misuse and to encourage students to seek advice, help and assistance voluntarily before their studies are adversely affected.
 - 4.3. Is committed to supporting students through educational, counselling² and disciplinary³ approaches.

¹ Use of the term 'misuse' does not imply that substances have a correct use.

² Support to Study Policy

³ Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures

MAIN CONTENT

ALCOHOL

5. The College recognises that the majority of students come to the College as adults and are therefore legally entitled to consume alcohol.⁴
6. Alcohol use is permitted on College premises with prior permission from a member of the Operations Team and subject to the [Licensing Act 2003](#).
7. The College does not condone the excessive use of alcohol on its premises and students who are found to be behaving inappropriately under the influence of alcohol may be subject to disciplinary action under the [Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures](#).
8. Information on units of alcohol and how to calculate the number of units in an alcoholic drink can be found [here](#).
9. Students should be aware of the dangers of 'drink spiking' and 'date rape drugs' and should not leave drinks unattended. More information can be found [here](#).

CONTROLLED DRUGS

10. It is an offence under the [Misuse of Drugs Act 1971](#) for the occupier of premises or persons concerned in the management of premises to allow the supply, use or production of drugs to take place on those premises.
11. The term 'controlled drugs' covers a wide range of substances, but the best known are cannabis, cocaine, and heroin, together with the many derivatives or hybrids of these drugs.⁵
12. The College does not condone the misuse of any controlled drug ([Misuse of Drugs Act 1971](#)) on its premises.
13. Any person found on College premises who is not a student and who is found or suspected to be involved with illegal drugs will be subject to an immediate lifetime ban from the College.
14. Any student or any student who invites someone on to College premises who is found or involved with controlled drugs may also be subject to disciplinary action under the [Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures \(#24\)](#).

PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

15. The [Psychoactive Substances Act 2016](#) made 'legal highs', which mimic the effects of traditional drugs that are controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, illegal. Information on psychoactive substances can be found [here](#).
16. The College does not condone the use of any psychoactive substances on its premises including laughing gas (NOS).

STUDY DRUGS

17. The College does not condone the use of study drugs. A study drug in this context refers to the use of substances or non-prescribed prescription medications that are used for cognitive enhancement and endurance. These

⁴ See Student Under 18 Policy

⁵ [Controlled Drugs List](#)

may take the form of stimulants used to treat conditions such as narcolepsy or Attention Deficient Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

18. College staff can search students or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the student may have prohibited items such as illegal drugs.
19. College staff can seize illegal drugs or other prohibited items found as a result of a search. Further guidance can be found in the document: [Searching, screening and confiscation](#).
20. Where there is physical evidence of illegal substances having been used on College premises, the Master will be informed and the evidence will be confiscated. This will be the responsibility of a member of the [Senior Management Team](#).

DUTY OF CARE

21. The College's duty of care to students is paramount. Where a student poses an immediate risk of harm to themselves and/or others they may require immediate assistance. In such cases, #7 of the [Support to Study Policy](#) should be followed.
22. It is recommended that a student who is heavily under the influence of substances is kept under observation until assistance can be summoned.
23. If a student or member of staff is concerned about another student's welfare they should encourage them to seek advice from the Student Wellbeing Team (SWT). If this proves difficult, the person with that concerning information should seek advice themselves, in confidence, from the SWT. If the College feels it is necessary to intercept and involve either other members of staff or external professionals, the individual providing the information will remain anonymous.⁶
24. All concerns or disclosures should be raised as soon as possible with the SWT, in a confidential and professional manner. Those raising a concern or disclosure should provide evidence to illustrate their concern or disclosure. The evidence may include reports about situations which have arisen, or which show a decline in the student's health and wellbeing, or there is a belief that the student is at risk of harm to them self or others. For further information on confidentiality, please refer to the [Student Confidentiality Statement](#).⁷
25. Students who contravene legislation may be subject to disciplinary action under the [Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures](#). The College may report incidents to the Police, which may result in criminal proceedings. Disciplinary action may also have implications for a student's future at the College, on future employment, and professional registration where applicable.

⁶ #paragraph 11 [Support to Study Policy](#).

⁷ #paragraph 12 [Support to Study Policy](#).

INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

26. The College will endeavour to increase awareness and understanding of substance misuse by:
 - 26.1. Providing publicity material to raise student awareness, e.g. posters and leaflets.
 - 26.2. Providing training to relevant staff.
 - 26.3. Inviting the Metropolitan Police and a representative from a local organisation (e.g. Turning Point) to give talks at events during Freshers' Week and other appropriate forums throughout the year.
 - 26.4. Working with the NCH Student Union Welfare & Diversity Officer.
27. Students may wish to seek advice from the SWT and refer to the [Student Confidentiality Statement](#).
28. The College regards an individual's misuse of substances as a wellbeing problem and encourages students to seek help. It is the student's choice whether to disclose their dependency to the College.
29. For students who wish to disclose their substance misuse, advice is available from their Personal Tutor, Head of Faculty or the SWT. Students can also talk to [Frank](#), or seek support from their GP or local support networks such as [Turning Point](#).

MONITORING, REVIEW AND EVALUATION

30. The Registrar shall report to Academic Board statistical information relating to student misuse of substance cases on an annual basis. It shall be the responsibility of Academic Board to monitor the data and make recommendations as appropriate.
31. NCH at Northeastern Limited Board receives data relating to the frequency and outcomes of this policy.

Title: Misuse of Substances					
Approved by: Academic Board					
Version number	Date approved	Date published	Author	Location	Proposed next review date
2.0	June 2020	June 2020	Registrar	NCH Academic Handbook/policies and procedures/general	June 2021
1.0 <i>(formally the Drugs and Alcohol Policy)</i>	January 2017	January 2017	Registrar	NCH Academic Handbook/policies and procedures/general	September 2018
Referenced					
Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures; Support to Study					

documents	Policy; Student Confidentiality Statement
External Reference Point(s)	UK Quality Code Theme: Learning and Teaching; Enabling Student Achievement; Health and Safety at Work Act 1974; Misuse of Drugs Act 1971; Turning Point; Frank; Searching, screening and confiscation; Psychoactive Substances Act 2016; Controlled Drugs List; Licensing Act 2003; NHS Alcohol Support; NHS Drink Spiking and Date Rape Drugs