

Safe Drinking Policy

**Last updated:
February 2018**

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Approval Details

Approved by:	Trustee Board	Date	February 2018
Implementation date:	April 2018		
Review date:	As required		
Manager responsible:	Director of Commercial Services		

Introduction

UPSU recognises that for many students, alcohol can be an important part of student life, and as such, it has no wish to discourage sensible drinking. UPSU is, however, committed to the wellbeing, health and safety of its students and the purpose of this Safe Drinking Policy is to provide our students with a comprehensive commitment to encourage and enable responsible alcohol consumption.

This Policy has been produced by UPSU in partnership with the University of Plymouth.

Policy Statement

- UPSU is committed to providing a safe, healthy, work and leisure environment that fosters and promotes the sensible consumption of alcohol.
- UPSU recognises that the consumption of alcohol is for many students a part of the 'student experience' and university life, as noted in research carried out by NUS (<https://alcoholimpact.nus.org.uk/research>).
- UPSU recognises its responsibilities associated with both the selling and provision of alcohol. UPSU and the University of Plymouth will exercise its duty of care towards staff, students and others by ensuring that the consumption of alcohol on campus is managed responsibly and complies with the Licensing Act (2003).
- UPSU will promote health, safety and wellbeing through the provision of information, advice, guidance and support.
- UPSU will encourage students with alcohol-related issues to seek appropriate help and signpost information to students as required.

Scope

This policy applies to all events and bar operations within the Students' Union, and all students whether they are on or off campus.

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Pricing and Promotions

- The prices in our bars are generally appreciably lower than those of our competition closest to our campus, but can often be matched in other pubs.
- Our pricing policy is believed to be in the interests of students by encouraging those who drink to do so in the Students' Union venue rather than elsewhere, but not so low as to encourage excessive consumption.
- A range of non-alcoholic drinks will be available cheaper than the cheapest alcoholic drinks on sale in our bars.

Partner Nightclubs

UPSU partners with different venues across the city to provide specific student nights. We will ensure that:

- Our partner nightclubs will be Best Bar None accredited.
- We provide advice to our clubs and societies entering into any sponsorship contracts with commercial alcoholic venues to ensure that they promote student wellbeing and discourage excessive drinking.

Legal Position

- UPSU does not condone the misuse or abuse of alcohol and is committed to reducing the risks associated with alcohol use within its operations.
- Whenever it is appropriate the Students' Union will take disciplinary action in response to unacceptable behaviour associated with the misuse or abuse of alcohol.
- UPSU reserves the right to deny entry to anyone into our venue in line with our safe space policy.
- Where a student has engaged in aggressive, abusive or other anti-social behaviour as a result of the use of alcohol, they will be subject to sanctions and disciplinary action as seen appropriate by the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS).
- All key personnel within the Evening & Night Time Economy (ENTE) are personal licence holders and we will provide where possible responsible service of alcohol training to all bar staff members.
- We will uphold the requirements of the licensing laws at all times.

Our Commitment

The wellbeing of our students is the key driver for this policy and, as a responsible Students' Union and retailer of alcohol; we will adhere to the following best practice:

- Pricing in the bars will be set at a level which encourages students to access the facility but not so low as to encourage excessive consumption.
- Free drinking water will be provided on request to all patrons who use our venue.

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- 'Initiation' ceremonies involving excessive alcohol consumption will not be permitted on or off the premises; however we will welcome groups/sports clubs/societies who wish to host events where the focus is not on excessive consumption of alcohol.
- We will strive to ensure that facilities/events are accessible for those students who choose not to drink alcohol, either due to personal preference, culture or because of religion or belief.
- We will always have alcohol-free alternatives available when alcohol is being served.
- We will participate in local and the National Union of Students (NUS) Best Bar None Scheme and will aspire to exceed standards required for accreditation.
- We will closely work in partnership with the alcohol education charity Drinkaware to raise awareness about the misuse of alcohol and encourage students to make informed choices.
- Alcohol education and campaign work will form part of our commitment to student welfare and will be run regularly by the Students' Union.
- We will monitor record and escalate concerns to the appropriate University personnel if there is a particular alcohol related welfare issue with any student.

Sports Clubs and Societies:

- Sports clubs and societies must uphold the reputation of UPSU both on and off campus.
- Sports clubs and societies must not highlight alcohol as the main reason for attending an event. Any promotion should indicate that there will be non-alcoholic drinks available at the event.

Advice and Support

- UPSU operates the Advice Centre, which any student can use, their contact details can be found at www.upsu.com/advice
- The University of Plymouth has several student support services, including an Anytime Advice Line which students can access 24/7, 365 days a year to provide advice and support on a range of issues. Their freephone number is 0800 042 0134
- UPSU employs a Security Industry Authority (SIA) accredited security company and the security guards are fully trained to deal with alcohol related incidents.
- All UPSU events and nightclub operations have first aiders on duty to help with injuries or illness.
- We have two Drinkaware Crew members on shift during nightclub events, who are specially-trained staff that work to reduce drunken anti-social behaviour and help keep people safe.
- If you are concerned about how alcohol is affecting a friend or relative you can seek advice from the national charity Al-Anon. They have a confidential helpline available from 10am-10pm, 365 days a year: 020 7403 0888.

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Other Relevant Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Safe Space Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Members Disciplinary Bye-Law
- Social Media Policy
- Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Sexual Harassment Policy

END OF POLICY

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