



No Smoking Policy

1. Policy Statement

The University's policy on smoking is designed to secure a healthy and safe environment for students and staff as well as eliminating passive smoking from its premises in keeping with the Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005 ("the 2005 Act"). This is in the context that medical evidence continues to reinforce the link between the inhalation of tobacco smoke, and particularly the associated toxins and carcinogens, either directly or by passive smoking, and serious illness.

2. Scope & Purpose

In order to promote the health and safety of both students and staff, the University will endeavour to ensure that its premises are free from tobacco smoke. The smoking of tobacco is not permitted in University buildings and on all other premises covered by the 2005 Act, or in University vehicles.

In line with the current guidance from the British Medical Association, the Policy also applies to the vapour from electronic cigarettes. The use of electronic cigarettes is prohibited wherever smoking is prohibited. **[Further guidance attached at Appendix A.]**

The policy applies to all University staff and students, as well as to visitors, contractors, and sub-contractors while on University premises.

3. Principles

It is the University's policy not to intrude on the privacy of individuals, particularly in health matters, where their conduct or performance at work is not affected. Nor is it intended to discriminate against smokers in recruitment and admissions arrangements.

The University will support individuals who wish to give up the habit of smoking. However, violations of the policy may be considered under the University's Disciplinary Policy. College/Support Group HR Advisors can provide advice on handling any staff disciplinary matters.

4. Benefits

The benefits of operating this policy include reduced health and safety, including fire, risks, decreasing absence levels, and an improvement of the view taken of the University as a responsible employer, in addition to compliance with legislation.

5. Definition of Premises

This Policy applies to all buildings owned by or leased to the University and occupied by employees, students, or other persons, as well as University vehicles. At the discretion

of local management, smoking is permitted in other grounds owned by the University, provided that smokers do not obstruct access to or exit from the premises.

6. Procedure and Responsibility

Students and staff are expected to take personal responsibility for observing this policy and should feel able to draw this policy to the attention of colleagues, and of visitors to the University. Managers should be aware of the need to remind anyone found smoking on University premises of this policy. Individuals who wish to smoke should be asked to leave University buildings.

7. Support Systems

The University is committed to supporting staff and students who wish to stop smoking. Cessation support and advice can be provided via individual's G.P.s or other NHS agencies. Information on smoking cessation support is available via the Occupational Health website at <http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/occupational-health/staff/general-health/smoking>

8. Review

This Policy was made mandatory in 26 March 2006. It was reviewed in August 2011, with only minor textual and formatting amendments made. It was reviewed again in April 2014 prohibiting the use of electronic cigarettes wherever smoking is prohibited, with immediate effect, and subsequently approved by the University Secretary and the Combined Joint Consultative Negotiating Committee (CJCNC). The policy was reviewed in June 2017 to update weblinks. It was updated and approved by HRPDG in September 2018 to reflect that all University self-catering flats are designated as no-smoking accommodation. It will be reviewed in full by December 2019.

9. Alternative Format

If you require this document in an alternative format please contact UHRS@ed.ac.uk or telephone 0131 650 8127.

Electronic Cigarettes (E-cigarettes)

The use of electronic cigarettes is an issue which is now more prevalent and the University is keen to take a responsible approach to their use.

E-cigarettes are battery-powered products designed to replicate smoking behaviour without the use of tobacco. E-cigarettes contain nicotine, and a variety of other chemicals. Studies have shown that the vapours from e-cigarettes have been found to contain carcinogens and toxins.

The British Medical Association (BMA) note that e-cigarettes are currently subject to limited regulation, they are not currently licensed as a medicine in the UK, and there is no peer-reviewed evidence that they are safe or effective as an aid to stopping smoking.

In October 2013, the European Parliament passed a draft law to introduce a raft of measures aimed at regulating e-cigarettes to ensure they are a safe and effective way of cutting down or quitting smoking.

The BMA believes the existing smoke-free legislation in place in the UK should be extended to include vapour from e-cigarettes. As an interim measure, the BMA recommend that e-cigarettes are prohibited in workplaces and public places, in order to (a) limit second-hand exposure to the vapour exhaled by the user ('passive vaping'), and (b) to ensure their use does not undermine smoking prevention and cessation by leading people to believe it is acceptable to smoke.

At the meeting of the University Health and Safety Committee on 5th November 2013 the Committee made the decision to recommend that the University's Smoking Policy should be extended to cover e-cigarettes in the same way as it covers conventional cigarettes, in line with current guidance from the BMA. Should the BMA or other authoritative guidance alter significantly in the future, then it is anticipated that our No Smoking Policy will require to be updated accordingly.

Further Information

- BMA Information on Electronic Cigarettes:
<https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/policy-and-research/public-and-population-health/tobacco/e-cigarettes>
- European Parliament News:
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/pdfs/news/expert/infopress/20131004IPR21539/20131004IPR21539_en.pdf