

ALCOHOL & INITIATIONS POLICY

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The SU is committed to providing a safe and healthy study, work and leisure environment and does not condone the irresponsible consumption of alcohol.
- 1.2 The SU recognises that the consumption of alcohol is for many students part of the 'student experience' and University life, but that this consumption need not be irresponsible and to an excessive degree. The SU recognises the need to encourage safer drinking habits amongst the student population.

2. The SU Policy

- 2.1 The SU will liaise with Edinburgh University Students Association (EUSA) to ensure EUSA is committed to developing a social culture that promotes the sensible use of alcohol and offers suitable alternatives to those who prefer alcohol-free activities.
- 2.2 The SU does not condone the misuse or abuse of alcohol and is committed to reducing the risks associated with alcohol use within its community. Whenever it is appropriate the University will take disciplinary action in response to unacceptable behaviour associated with the misuse or abuse of alcohol.
- 2.3 Where a student has engaged in aggressive, abusive or other anti-social behaviour in part as a result of the use of alcohol, this will in no way excuse the behaviour or mitigate the penalties imposed in so far as the application of the SU Disciplinary Committee.
- 2.4 The SU will liaise with EUSA to ensure that bars located on the campus will be managed under license and conform to legal requirements.
- 2.5 The SU will liaise with EUSA to ensure it will always encourage our customers to drink responsibly.
- 2.6 The SU will liaise with EUSA to ensure that where alcohol is being served free water and soft drinks must be available to all customers in all bars.
- 2.7 The SU will liaise with EUSA to ensure that venues will provide plastic glasses to be used at any event and time where glass is considered a risk and for outdoor use.

3. Club Policy

- 3.1 It should be remembered that groups of the SU must at all times act to uphold the reputation of the SU whether on campus or an alternative venue.
- 3.2 Students who are already intoxicated must not be encouraged to drink more alcohol.
- 3.3 Where a student needs to go to hospital due to alcohol consumption, they must be accompanied by a responsible person. Any hospital visits of this nature must be reported to the SU President.

- 3.4 Clubs must not highlight alcohol as the main reason for attending an event. Publicity should indicate that there will be non-alcoholic drinks available at the event.
- 3.5 All promotional activity will ensure that we market and promote events containing alcohol responsibly and that there will be no active promotion of drinking games.

4. Transport Policy

- 4.1 Any student who is driving members of a SU Club as part of an event must not consume any alcohol prior to driving. Blood alcohol levels should be zero during all driving activities.
- 4.2 When traveling on provided transport (i.e. Minibuses, coaches or cars), no alcohol is permitted to be carried onto/consumed on board at any time. Failure to comply with this rule invalidates our insurance and is against the law above all.
- 4.3 The designated driver of the vehicle has the authority to refuse entry onto the vehicle or refuse to drive, if any member's behaviour is deemed unacceptable. Disciplinary action will be taken against any student who is reported by the designated driver.

5. Bar/Pub Crawls

The SU does not support organised bar crawls— whether they take place on the high street or in Student Union venues. Bar/Pub Crawls contribute to the negative image of the student binge drinker, can worsen social tensions in the local community and can be dangerous to Students' health and well-being.

The following guidelines are in place to protect the students:

- 6.1 Students should not be expected nor forced to consume alcohol at each venue.
- 6.2 Students should remember that they are representatives of the University when in the local community and therefore act accordingly.

6. Initiations

An initiation or other associated terminology reflecting 'initiations' is an event in which members (often new members) of the club are expected to perform any activity as a means of gaining credibility, status or entry into that club. The peer pressure is normally (though not explicitly) exerted on first year members or members new to that particular club and may involve the consumption of alcohol, eating concoctions of various food stuffs, nudity and any behaviour that may be deemed humiliating.

The following guidelines are in place to protect the students:

- 5.1 Initiations are not permitted by any SU Club
- 5.2 Members of SU Clubs will not apply what may be perceived as peer pressure upon individuals in any social situation this extends to any 'tradition' within the Club.
- 5.3 The committee of each Club is responsible for the welfare of all Club members and must take the necessary measures to ensure that an adequate level of safety is maintained at all times.
- 5.4 In the case of suspected abuse, harm or exploitation this must be reported immediately and anonymously using [the following form](#)

7. Breaches of Code of Conduct

Breaches in this policy may result in a disciplinary hearing, carried out by the SU Disciplinary Committee. Details of the Disciplinary Committee can be found in the SU Constitution.

In less severe cases the SU President & Sports Programme Manager with support from the Director of Sport where necessary will determine the disciplinary action to be taken.

Any breach of the procedure will result in one or more of the following:

- 7.1 £100 fine of the Club account
- 7.2 Removal of Individuals from BUCS Competition
- 7.3 Removal of teams from BUCS Competition
- 7.4 Individual Expulsion from the SU
- 7.5 Club Expulsion from the SU

If any incidents occur at the end of a season, the sanctions may be levied for the following year.