

University of Kent

Illegal substances and alcohol harm reduction statement

The University of Kent understands that students use alcohol and other illegal substances. We also understand that a zero-tolerance stance is harmful and damaging as it prevents students reaching out for support as they may fear being punished.

The university looks to reduce harm wherever possible and works to reduce barriers to students accessing support, reduce short and longer term physical and mental health and the impact on academic studies and relationships. Support for substance or alcohol misuse can be accessed via [Student Support and Wellbeing](#) who work with a local organisation, [Forward Trust](#).

A harm reduction stance does not, however, mean anti-social or criminal behaviour is acceptable, any such misconduct will continue to be addressed robustly through the [Student Discipline Procedure](#). Additionally, future career prospects can be damaged if students are involved in criminal activities.

The use of illegal substances is not to be regarded as the same as being involved in the supply of illegal drugs. Any student found to be involved in the supply of illegal drugs will be referred to the Police for consideration of criminal prosecution.