



## **Alcohol Safety Policy**

### **Durham Students' Union**

Durham Students' Union recognises that for many students drinking alcohol is part of University life. As in wider society, alcohol can form an enjoyable part of socialising with friends at community and social events. We also recognise the necessity of encouraging a responsible relationship with alcohol and creating an environment that reduces potential risks to health and personal safety.

Durham Students' Union is committed to promoting a safe and supportive environment in which to study and socialise.

#### **In order to do so, we will:**

- Promote a community which recognises and respects different attitudes towards alcohol use.
- Promote the services within, and external to, the University, for advice and support when dealing with alcohol use.
- Create an understanding of acceptable behaviour surrounding alcohol and sanction responsible use of disciplinary action where appropriate.
- Recognise the link between responsible behaviour and an enjoyable learning experience and seek to promote a social environment from which all may benefit.
- Exercise our legal duty of care towards staff, students and others by ensuring that the consumption of alcohol in SU bars is managed responsibly and complies with the Licensing Act 2005.
- Provide guidance and information to staff and students to help them develop the confidence to know what action to take if they are concerned about alcohol misuse which puts the wellbeing of students at risk.
- Encourage student groups to run and engage with events that are alcohol free, or that are not focussed solely on alcohol, to ensure an inclusive community.

#### **Code of Practice**

**The following Code of Practice constitutes an agreed set of regulations and behaviour standards that guide all Students' Union activities involving alcohol.**

### **1. Student Groups**

#### 1.1 Duty of Care

Those organising an activity involving students have a duty of care in law to ensure the safety of its members and any other people who may be affected by its activities and events. To meet this, Organisers have a duty to:

- 1.1.1 Comply with the Students' Union Student Group Agreement and this Alcohol Policy and Code of Practice;



- 1.1.2 Comply with the University's Policy on Student Alcohol Awareness and Use if they use 'Durham University' in their name;
- 1.1.3 Complete an SU risk assessment for any events, in which students will be involved, where alcohol will be available;
- 1.1.4 Attend training sessions which relate to their student group role as well as those concerning running events;
- 1.1.5 Take reasonably practicable steps to minimise or avoid the risk of any foreseeable hazardous events;
- 1.1.6 Seek advice and guidance from the Opportunities Team at the Students' Union ([dsu.engagement@durham.ac.uk](mailto:dsu.engagement@durham.ac.uk)) when necessary;
- 1.1.7 Report all safety concerns (including accidents and near misses in the building) to the Commercial Team at the Students' Union ([dsu.reception@durham.ac.uk](mailto:dsu.reception@durham.ac.uk)).

## 1.2 Planning of Events

Any organised activity or event held throughout the year, involving student attendees and alcohol, should aim to be safe and enjoyable. Student group executive and other event organisers are expected to take full responsibility for this. Organisers should:

- 1.2.1 Organise events to be inclusive, accessible and strive to make allowances for all cultural and personal beliefs;
- 1.2.2 Always provide non-alcoholic alternatives;
- 1.2.3 Organise events in such a way that no member feels harassed, intimidated, humiliated or bullied;
- 1.2.4 Allow members to opt out without fear of undue pressure, reprisal, non-selection for teams/projects, embarrassment or any form of discrimination;
- 1.2.5 Not organise events which encourage the excessive consumption of alcohol (government guidance on unit consumption are instructive in this);
- 1.2.6 Not organise events that offer more alcohol than what is identified and approved in the risk assessment for the event (in line with Student Group Guidelines on the Students' Union website);
- 1.2.7 Not organise initiation ceremonies, including those focused solely on excessive alcohol consumption in short periods of time;
- 1.2.8 Consider, and evidence in risk assessment, how participants will get back from any planned event;



- 1.2.9 Consider how to maintain the positive reputation of Durham University and Durham Students' Union while in public;
- 1.2.10 Adhere to any alcohol policies in place at venue where event is being held.

## **2. Students' Union Events**

### 2.1 Welfare

Durham Students' Union is committed to hosting safe and responsible events in Dunelm House. Events held in, or organised by, Durham Students' Union should seek to ensure the welfare of all event attendees. The Union should:

- 2.1.1 Ensure that food and free water is always available when alcohol is on sale;
- 2.1.2 Ensure that non-alcoholic drinks are available to be purchased at a lower price than the cheapest alcoholic drink;
- 2.1.3 Maintain an awareness of attendees at all times to avoid people drinking beyond their capabilities. Durham Students' Union bar staff reserves the right to refuse service to any event attendee, who is considered to have had too much alcohol;
- 2.1.4 Treat persons who are considered to have had too much alcohol as first aid cases. They should be kept in a warm area to avoid possible hypothermia (avoid the temptation to take them outside) and be offered fluids in the form of water. Medical advice should be sought if necessary;
- 2.1.5 Ensure that any persons deemed too intoxicated to look after themselves, are not sent home on their own, but are accompanied by a friend who is deemed capable enough to look after them. This person should be informed to stay with the casualty and seek medical advice if necessary;
- 2.1.6 Send any persons who are intoxicated and vomiting uncontrollably, are unconscious or nearly unconscious, to hospital immediately.

### 2.2 Security

All Durham Students' Union events involving alcohol should have appropriate security measures in place to ensure the safety of event attendees. The Union should:

- 2.2.1 Carry out a risk assessment for any events to be held within Dunelm House and put appropriate security measures in place;
- 2.2.2 Ensure that any security staff employed, provide an in date qualification in door supervision that is recognised by the Security Industry Authority. They must also be briefed by the Union on how to signpost students to support services where necessary.

## **3. Support**



Durham Students' Union is committed to supporting students to have a safe and responsible relationship with alcohol, to enable them to take part in the wider student experience at Durham University. In order to achieve this, the Union will:

- 3.1 Continue to operate a reasonably costed Nightbus service that will take students home after a night-out to increase their safety;
- 3.2 Advertise the University's reimbursement taxi service to students;
- 3.3 Continue to operate an Advice Service that any student facing issues around alcohol consumption, or those of a friend, can access for free and impartial support and signposting.

#### **4. Advertisement**

Durham Students' Union is committed to the responsible advertising of alcohol products to students. In order to achieve this, the Union will:

- 4.1 Restrict the number of free alcoholic drinks made available to students in the form of competition prizes to one drink per person (i.e. one pitcher for four people), or otherwise food will also be included;
- 4.2 Promote a reasonable combination of non-alcoholic and food promotions, both electronic and print advertisements, as well as alcohol promotions;
- 4.3 Not promote any alcoholic drinks which contain more than 3.5 units.

#### **5. Communication**

In order for Durham Students' Union's position on alcohol and the safety of students, as outlined in this policy, to be communicated effectively, we will:

- 5.1 Make this policy publicly available on the Students' Union website and provide links specifically for student groups under Student Group Resources;
- 5.2 Include the teachings from this policy in training for Student Group Executive members and event organisers, and provide access to further guidance when required;

#### **6. Breach of Code of Practice**

If a member of a Student Group, or staff member at Durham Students' Union, is perceived to have breached the Code of Practice outlined in this policy, the following process should be followed:

- 6.1 Any breach by a member of a Student Group should be reported to the Opportunities Team ([dsu.engagement@durham.ac.uk](mailto:dsu.engagement@durham.ac.uk)) and breaches by a member of Durham Students' Union staff should be reported to the Chief Executive Officer ([gareth.j.hughes@durham.ac.uk](mailto:gareth.j.hughes@durham.ac.uk)).
- 6.2 Any report of a suspected breach of this Code of Practice will be investigated internally;



- 6.3 Any confirmed breach of this Code of Practice will be investigated internally and referred to Assembly or the Audit and Risk Committee, if necessary. A suitable course of action will be agreed by the investigating body;
- 6.4 An annual report of all reported breaches will be presented to Audit and Risk Committee.