



John Moores Students' Union

Alcohol & Drug Policy

Approved by the Trustee Board	21/11/2025
Date of Next Review	21/11/2028
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1. General Statement of Policy

John Moores Students' Union (JMSU) understands that attending university is not only an academic experience but also provides individuals with crucial opportunities for engagement in non-academic activities, including events and activities. The policy is to promote awareness and education to aid students in making informed choices in relation to alcohol and recreational drugs. JMSU will also signpost students to the University facilities and local services available to those predisposed to, or suffering from, problematic drug and alcohol usage.

2. Scope

JMSU is committed to championing the health, safety, and rights of all students. As a students' union, we actively campaign for evidence-based approaches to student wellbeing and for environments where students feel safe, supported, and able to make informed choices. This includes advocating for harm-reduction initiatives, promoting access to accurate information about alcohol and drugs, and working with partners across the city to reduce the risks students may face.

We recognise that students are autonomous adults responsible for their own decisions, including those relating to alcohol and recreational drug use. Our role is not to criminalise students, but to protect their welfare, influence positive cultural change, and ensure that they have access to the support they need.

As a registered charity bound by UK law, JMSU maintains a zero-tolerance stance on the possession, supply, or use of illegal drugs at JMSU activities or venues. However, we are equally committed to ensuring that students who seek help are treated with compassion rather than punishment. Any student experiencing substance-related difficulties will be supported and signposted to appropriate health, wellbeing, and harm-reduction services.

This policy will align with, and operate in partnership with, the LJMU Drug and Alcohol Policy.

3. Aims & Objectives

The aims and objectives of this policy are as follows:

- **Promote Student Welfare** - To prioritise the health, safety, and wellbeing of all students by addressing issues related to alcohol and recreational drug use.
- **Ensure Compliance** - To align with UK laws, including the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the Charity Commission's requirements, while supporting LJMU's policies.
- **Foster Education and Awareness** - To provide students with the knowledge and resources to make informed decisions about alcohol and drug use.
- **Create an Inclusive Environment** - To ensure JMSU events and venues are safe, accessible, and welcoming for all students, regardless of their choices regarding alcohol or drugs.

4. Governance

4.1 The Trustee Board has ultimate responsibility for ensuring that this policy is complied with by all employees and parties associated with the charity. The CEO has day-to-day responsibility for implementing this policy.

4.2 The job titles referred to in this Policy are subject to change. If there is any doubt about designated roles, the CEO can give final clarification.

5. Duties & Responsibilities

- 5.1 JMSU Staff will be present and sober at organised student events and activities to provide support to students and ensure their safety.
- 5.2 JMSU Staff will act in accordance with JMSU's zero-tolerance approach towards illegal drug use while promoting responsible alcohol consumption.
- 5.3 JMSU will ensure that alcohol is served only in licensed venues during events and activities. When organising events involving alcohol on campus, JMSU will collaborate closely with LJMU licensee to ensure compliance with licensing laws and maintain a safe and controlled environment.
- 5.4 JMSU is committed to ensuring that our venues and events are accessible and inclusive, creating a welcoming environment for all students. We will actively consider accessibility needs in planning and executing events to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate fully.
- 5.5 JMSU will ensure clear communication and signage at events and activities to promote safe drinking practices and raise awareness of responsible alcohol consumption which is incorporated into our risk management framework.

6. Recreational Drugs

- 6.1 Anybody found to be distributing, in possession of, or using controlled substances or illegal drugs at JMSU events and activities on or off campus will be disciplined under the relevant procedure, as both JMSU and the University have a zero-tolerance policy with regard to illegal drug taking.
- 6.2 Any members found to be distributing, or in possession of, controlled substances or illegal drugs within JMSU events/activities on or off campus will be asked to leave immediately, and the University and other relevant authorities (including the police) will be informed.
- 6.3 Separate from the University's disciplinary action, such individuals will also be subject to JMSU disciplinary action as outlined in our byelaws and policies.

7. Alcohol

- 8.1 If a licensed venue refuses service of alcoholic products to those who appear to be intoxicated and will either ask members to safely leave the premises or encourage them to consume water/have a soft drink as appropriate. JMSU Staff will take direction from the licensee of the venue.
- 8.2 If Individuals considered to be intoxicated when observed by bar staff and/or security/JMSU Staff inside, outside, or leaving the event/activity are informally assessed for risk of harm. If their demeanour causes sufficient concern for their safety that person will be assessed further and given appropriate assistance. This could include obtaining first aid where necessary.
- 8.3 Should any student, JMSU staff, bar staff and/or security staff suspect a drink may have been spiked with alcohol or drugs (a criminal act), JMSU will provide support to the victim, investigate further to gain evidence from the venue, and report the incident to LJMU and the emergency services.

8. Support & Wellbeing

- 9.1 JMSU will suggest appropriate support services to any student who reports concerns relating to their own drug or alcohol usage, or to members about whom others have raised concerns. This will be undertaken

confidentially with no sharing of information to any other individuals or organisations, including the University.

- 9.2 Where an Adviser feels that there is an issue of serious current/potential harm, self-harm or harm to others, or a situation of child abuse, the Safeguarding Policy and Procedure should be followed.
- 9.3 A number of resources detailing welfare advice, NHS and Non-NHS treatment health resources are available from the JMSU Reception. LJMU also provides a confidential self-referral counselling service, which does not disclose information to the University.
- 9.4 Any individual that is concerned for themselves or a friend regarding drug or alcohol usage should always seek advice. For any concerns about alcohol or drug related problems you can visit our webpage.

9. Implementation & Monitoring

- 11.1 Line Managers will ensure that this policy is brought to the attention of elected officers, staff, and volunteers regularly and that individuals are encouraged to mitigate risks.
- 11.2 This policy applies to all individuals working at all levels and grades.

10. Breaches of the Policy

- 12.1. Breach of this policy may lead to disciplinary action against members of staff or other appropriate action against officers/trustees by the Trustee Board.
- 12.2. Students can make a formal complaint via the byelaws or policies. JMSU has a Safeguarding Policy which should be referred to. If an individual has a concern and wishes to make a disclosure, they should inform a JMSU Staff Member.

11. Inspection & Audit Review

- 14.1 JMSU will maintain a risk assessment of key areas of JMSU activities that could be at risk of drug and alcohol.
- 14.2 This policy will be reviewed every 3 years or sooner if there are changes in relevant legislation.

12. Related Policy

- 15.1 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies and documents:
 - a. Activities Policy
 - b. Volunteering Policy
 - c. Whistleblowing Policy
 - d. JMSU Staff Handbook
- 15.2 JMSU Policies can be found at [Our Rules & Policies @ Liverpool John Moores University Students' Union](#)