

Smoking Policy

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1. Scope

This smoking policy is designed to secure a non-smoking healthy and safe environment for everyone who works, studies, visits or has business at the University of Bristol and to ensure compliance with the Smoke-free (Exceptions and Vehicles) Regulations 2007.

2. Introduction

The University of Bristol has duties under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 to ensure the health, safety and welfare of its employees and make similar provision for non-employees including students and visitors who may be affected by the University's activities. The smoking policy is designed to secure a healthy and safe working environment in compliance with the Health Act 2006. This is in the context that medical evidence continues to reinforce the link between inhalation of smoke both directly or by passive smoking and serious illness or the exacerbation of pre-existing health problems.

3. Policy

The policy applies to all University staff and students as well as to visitors, contractors and sub-contractors whilst on University owned and controlled property.

Smoking is not permitted in any University building. This includes personal offices.

The ban on smoking is extended to include the areas immediately outside all buildings and windows within the curtilage of University property where tobacco smoke could cause a nuisance to occupants. Anyone wishing to smoke is asked to respect the rights of others to enjoy a smoke-free environment.

All University vehicles are designated as non-smoking. This includes University vehicles even if they are mainly used by one member of staff and also vehicles that are hired or leased for University business.

It is the responsibility of event organisers to ensure that all University events comply with this policy and current legislation by providing a smoke-free environment. Please note that the regulations apply to enclosed or substantially enclosed premises so temporary structures such as marquees must also be smoke-free.

This smoking policy also applies to the use of electronic cigarettes. These devices directly undermine the effects and intentions of existing legislation including the ban on smoking in enclosed public spaces, therefore as a consequence and to avoid confusion and interpretation on the smoking policy, electronic cigarettes are prohibited wherever smoking is prohibited.

4. Signage

Signage will be clearly displayed at the entrances to and within University premises that is compliant with the Smoke-free (Signs) Regulations 2007. Facilities Managers are able to provide advice regarding signage.

Heads of School/Services responsible for the management of University vehicles must ensure that no-smoking signs are displayed in a prominent position in each compartment.

5. Exemptions

5.1 Research and testing facilities

Specific research projects may designate certain rooms for smoking if the research or tests are specified in Regulation 9 (2) of The Smoke-free (Exemptions and Vehicles) Regulations 2007. The Health and Safety Office can provide assistance to ensure that any proposed activities comply with the legislation.

5.2 Performers

The Smoke-free (Exception and Vehicles) Regulations 2007 states that smoking is permitted during a performance where artistic integrity dictates. This will be subject to a risk assessment and the exemption does not apply to rehearsals.

6. Enforcement of the policy

University disciplinary procedures will be followed if a member of staff or student fails to comply with this policy. Compliance with the legislation and the University policy must be managed on a local basis.

Local Councils are responsible for enforcing the legislation. Those who do not comply with the smoke free law will be committing a criminal offence and may be liable to a fixed penalty fine and possible criminal prosecution.

7. Guidance on policy

7.1 Provision for smokers

Positive assistance will be given to smokers who wish to give up the habit of smoking. Help, advice and support is available through the Occupational Health Service and Students' Health Service.

Other services that are available nationally include;

- Local NHS stop smoking services, call 0800 022 4332 or <http://gosmokefree.nhs.uk/advice-and-information/>
- Visit <http://www.gosmokefree.co.uk/>
- Visit ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) <http://www.ash.org.uk/>
- Local GP practice, pharmacy or hospital