



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME
A U S T R A L I A

Policy:

Use of Alcohol by Students

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and Wellbeing

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Fremantle

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Sydney

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1 OBJECTS OF THE UNIVERSITY

The University's Objects are defined in Section 5 of its Act of Parliament:

The Objects of the University are:

- (a) the provision of university education, within a context of Catholic faith and values; and
- (b) the provision of an excellent standard of -
 - i. teaching, scholarship and research;
 - ii. training for the professions; and
 - iii. pastoral care for its students.

2 PURPOSE

- 2.1** The purpose of this Policy is to clearly set out the University's position in relation to use of alcohol by Students on campus or at University approved or sponsored events.

3 SCOPE

- 3.1** This Policy applies to:
 - 3.1.1 all Students and Staff of the University;
 - 3.1.2 all University campuses, premises, teaching sites and University-controlled sites;
 - 3.1.3 all events that are connected with or may be associated with the University, including events organised or run by University clubs affiliated to the University through a student association, whether such events take place on or off campus. Such events include but are not limited to practical placements, internships, field trips, sporting events and celebrations, university games, Student balls etc.

4 PRINCIPLES

- 4.1** The University is committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all Students and other members of the University community.
- 4.2** The University encourages Students to have a responsible attitude towards the use of alcohol.
- 4.3** Through this Policy, the University aims to implement measures which will prevent or reduce harm to Students and others in the University community.
- 4.4** The University will offer appropriate forms of assistance to those who experience alcohol-related problems.

5 USE, DISTRIBUTION, SALE AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

- 5.1** Students who are impaired by alcohol are not permitted to attend campus or any University activity or event off campus. Such activities include, but are not limited to, lectures, tutorials, seminars, laboratories, workshops, practical placements, internship placements, field trips and excursions.
- 5.2** Students shall not use, distribute, sell or consume alcohol while on any University Premises, except where the use, distribution, sale or consumption of alcohol is expressly permitted by the Head of Campus; for example, where consumption or sale of alcohol is permitted by the

Head of Campus for the purpose of a University approved social function.

- 5.3** Where approval has been given for a function at which the consumption or sale of alcohol is permitted, and the function is organised or run by Students, the following requirements shall apply:
- 5.3.1 free drinking water, and adequate quantities of other non-alcoholic drinks, must be easily available;
 - 5.3.2 if drinks are being charged for, non-alcoholic drinks must be offered at lower prices than the alcoholic drinks being served;
 - 5.3.3 the price of alcoholic drinks should not be so low as to encourage heavy or rapid consumption;
 - 5.3.4 where venue packages include external venue hire, alcohol and food in one cost, it is requested that the amount and type of food and alcohol served at the event is provided to the University. In all other instances if an attendance fee is charged for the function, the cost of admission, food and entertainment must be separate from the cost of alcoholic beverages;
 - 5.3.5 drinking games or any type of drinking apparatus (e.g. funnels, shot glasses etc.) which encourage or enable a person to consume large quantities of alcohol rapidly are not permitted;
 - 5.3.6 availability of alcohol must comply with Responsible Service of Alcohol requirements, liquor laws and other relevant legislation, including the requirement not to supply alcohol to minors or to a person who is intoxicated; and
 - 5.3.7 appropriate security arrangements must be provided.
- 5.4** If the requirements of clause 5.3 are not met, any Student who is involved in organising or running the function may face disciplinary action in accordance with the University's disciplinary guidelines.
- 5.5** Where a Student is found to have used, distributed, sold or consumed alcohol at University Premises without the permission of the University the Student may face disciplinary action in accordance with the University's disciplinary guidelines.

6 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

- 6.1** Students who drink alcohol are encouraged to have a responsible attitude towards alcohol and are required to demonstrate responsible behaviour at all times. Students should consider strategies for minimising harm from alcohol such as the following:
- 6.1.1 pre-arrange transport from an event so that Students do not drink and drive;
 - 6.1.2 arrange for a friend, who will not consume alcohol during an event, to be the designated driver;
 - 6.1.3 eat before and during an event, as eating while drinking can slow the absorption of alcohol in the body;
 - 6.1.4 try to space alcoholic drinks with water or soft drinks;
 - 6.1.5 be careful and encourage your friends to be careful; and
 - 6.1.6 be aware that the risk of accidents and harm including physical violence, sexual assault and sexual harassment can increase in environments where alcohol is consumed.
- 6.2** Students are expected to recognise that performance of their academic activities can be affected by alcohol.
- 6.3** The University may direct any Student who is impaired by alcohol to be removed from Campus or any academic activity immediately.

- 6.4** If a Student who is impaired by alcohol at any time conducts themselves in a manner detrimental to the reputation or the orderly functioning of the University and its activities, including conduct that may cause any significant disturbance of the University, residential or local community, or may infringe on the rights or well-being of others, the Student may face disciplinary action in accordance with the University's disciplinary guidelines.

7 HAZARDOUS ACTIVITIES

- 7.1** Alcohol may not be consumed immediately prior to (i.e. in such proximity that it can compromise safety through intoxication or hangover effects) or during participation in any activity that is inherently hazardous or which may become hazardous as a result of alcohol use. Such activities include, but are not limited to, handling dangerous goods, operating vehicles, controlling heavy machinery or equipment, and working at heights or in confined spaces.

8 ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IN UNIVERSITY RESIDENTIAL AREAS

- 8.1** Clause 8 of this Policy applies only in relation to the Fremantle campus and the Sydney campus of the University.
- 8.2** Subject to the provisions of this section, the consumption of alcohol may be permitted by Students in the communal areas of University residential accommodation. University Staff will determine where, when, and if alcohol may be consumed by any person, including residents and their guests, in any residential area of the University.
- 8.3** Students in University residential accommodation and their guests, who consume alcohol must demonstrate a responsible attitude towards alcohol and conduct themselves in a responsible and respectful manner. Students must not cause disruption or disturbance to other people within the residential accommodation or in the local community.
- 8.4** No alcohol may be possessed, stored or consumed in a resident's private room. Any alcohol that is possessed by a resident or their guest must be stored in a designated communal area of the residence, in accordance with directions of University Staff. The University accepts no liability for theft or loss of Students' alcohol.
- 8.5** Alcohol must not be supplied by Students or guests to any person who is impaired by alcohol or aged under 18 years within University residential areas.
- 8.6** Residents and their guests must not be subjected to any pressure to drink alcohol, to drink more than they judge to be reasonable, or to be made to feel uneasy or embarrassed as a result of their choice.
- 8.7** Drinking games or any type of drinking apparatus (e.g. funnels, shot glasses etc.) which encourage or enable a person to consume large quantities of alcohol rapidly are not permitted in University residential areas. If found, such implements may be confiscated by Staff. Students may not consume alcohol mixed with energy drinks, in University residential areas.
- 8.8** Kegs and alcoholic punch are not permitted at any time in University residential areas.
- 8.9** Residents who consume alcohol in University residential areas and become impaired or under the influence of alcohol and create a disturbance or cause disruption may face disciplinary action in accordance with the University's disciplinary guidelines.

- 8.10** Residents who consume alcohol at another location and return to the University, including University residential areas, impaired or under the influence of alcohol and create a disturbance or cause disruption may face disciplinary action in accordance with the University's disciplinary guidelines.

9 OUTBOUND STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS

- 9.1** Students who participate in the Outbound Study Abroad Exchange Program are considered ambassadors for the University and are expected to abide by the rules and regulations of the host institution and its country including those relating to alcohol.
- 9.2** Outbound Study Abroad Students remain enrolled as students of the University during their exchange and therefore must continue to abide by the rules and regulations of the University whilst on exchange, as well as those of the host institution and its country.

10 STUDENT IMMERSION PROGRAMS AND STUDY TOURS

- 10.1** In general, there will be no University-organised or University-approved events involving alcohol for Students who are involved in Student immersion programs or other study tours that may count towards a Student's program of study. However, in appropriate circumstances, on a case by case basis, the Staff member who is running a Student immersion program or study tour may seek permission from their Dean, Director or Head of Campus to include an event that involves alcohol consumption by Students. In such cases, the following steps must be completed:
- 10.1.1 The Staff member must seek prior written approval from their Dean, Director or Head of Campus for each event within a Student immersion program or study tour at which it is proposed that Students would consume alcohol;
 - 10.1.2 The request for approval must explain why alcohol should be included as part of the event, taking into account social, religious, cultural, political or other contexts of the Student immersion program or study tour, and outline the type and quantity of alcoholic beverages that would be served;
 - 10.1.3 The request must include a plan for managing alcohol consumption by Students at the event, with a view to minimising the risk of harm to Students, Staff and others, and protecting the reputation of the University;
 - 10.1.4 No alcohol may be served to Students at University events within an immersion program or study tour except as expressly permitted by the relevant Dean, Director or Head of Campus.
- 10.2** The University recognises that events within immersion programs and study tours may be organised by other parties and that occasionally alcohol may be served to Students at such events without prior notice. In such cases, the most senior University Staff member present at the event is responsible for deciding whether or not alcohol should be consumed by Students, and for putting in place appropriate safeguards as required to minimise the risk of harm to Students, Staff and others, and to protect the reputation of the University. If Students consume alcohol at such events, they should follow the requirements of clauses 10.3.1-10.3.5.
- 10.3** Students who are involved in immersion programs or study tours are strongly encouraged to refrain from consuming alcohol at any time, other than those permitted under clause 10.1. If they choose to consume alcohol, Students should:

- 10.3.1 exercise caution, especially if Students are drinking alcohol in an unfamiliar location or environment;
 - 10.3.2 have a responsible attitude towards alcohol and demonstrate responsible behaviour at all times;
 - 10.3.3 not engage in drink driving;
 - 10.3.4 comply with all local laws;
 - 10.3.5 be aware that consumption of alcohol may operate to exclude any insurance cover in relation to that Student in the event of any injury or illness suffered by that Student while on an immersion program or study tour.
- 10.4** If a Student on an immersion program or study tour who is impaired by alcohol conducts themselves in a manner detrimental to the reputation or the orderly functioning of the University and its activities, including conduct that may cause any significant disturbance of the University, residential or local community, or may infringe on the rights or well-being of others, the Student may face disciplinary action in accordance with the University's disciplinary guidelines. If the University determines it appropriate, a Student may be sent home early at their own expense.

11 STUDENTS EXPERIENCING ALCOHOL-RELATED PROBLEMS

- 11.1** The University acknowledges that some Students will experience problems as a result of their own or others' alcohol use. While it cannot be accepted as an excuse for poor performance or inappropriate behaviour, alcohol-related problems will be addressed in a supportive, confidential and constructive way.
- 11.2** Students who experience alcohol-related problems are encouraged to seek confidential assistance from University services including the Counselling service and Chaplaincy or Campus Ministry, or from external alcohol and drug treatment agencies or other health professionals. Seeking such assistance, or being referred to it, will not result, by itself, in disciplinary action nor will it affect the personal situation of the individual in the University setting. Counsellors and other health professionals assisting individuals with an alcohol-related problem will respect the privacy and confidentiality of those who seek help unless the health and safety of others is potentially at risk.

12 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 12.1** *University General Regulations*
- 12.2** *Student Code of Conduct*
- 12.3** *Policy: Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment*
- 12.4** *Procedure; Disclosing Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment*
- 12.5** *Policy: University Affiliation of Student Clubs*
- 12.6** *Policy; Provision of Funding to the University's Student Associations (Sydney and Fremantle)*
- 12.7** *Student Accommodation Agreement*
- 12.8** *House Rules for student accommodation.*

13 DEFINITIONS

- 13.1** For the purpose of this Policy, the following definitions apply:

Impaired means adversely affected by alcohol. As a general guide, a person is impaired by alcohol when their level of consumption is likely to be at or over the legal limit for driving

Premises means, for the purposes of this Policy, any University campus, teaching site, University controlled site or any external place where an event takes place which is connected or associated with the University.

Staff means all current staff of the University.

Student means all current students of the University, including students who are enrolled in higher education programs, Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses, pathway programs such as the Tertiary Pathway Program and non-AQF qualifications, and includes students who are on-shore or offshore, domestic or international, undergraduate or postgraduate, on-campus or studying externally.

University means The University of Notre Dame Australia.

Version	Date of approval	Approved by	Amendment
1	10 December 2018	Vice Chancellor	New Policy – replaces <i>Policy: Student Drug and Alcohol</i> .
2	23 April 2020	Vice Chancellor, following endorsement by Student Board	Clause 5.3.4 amended: additional requirement to provide the University with details of amount and type of food and alcohol served as part of a venue package at functions run or organised by Students.