



UNIVERSITY OF
LIMERICK
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

University of Limerick

Smoke and Vape Free Campus Policy

Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The Healthy Ireland initiative (Department of Health, 2013) sets out a vision to develop an Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility.

As part of the Healthy Ireland initiative the University of Limerick, along with other public sector organisations, has developed a Healthy UL Framework. The creation of a smoke and vape free campus is a key initial component in the implementation of the Healthy UL Framework and is also a key recommendation for third level institutions in the Report of the Tobacco Policy Review Group (Department of Health, 2013).

1.2 Scope

1.2.1 *To whom does the policy apply?*

This policy has been developed to improve the health, safety and welfare of staff, students, contractors¹ and visitors²,

1.2.2 *In what situations does the policy apply?*

This policy sets out to improve health outcomes for all staff, students, visitors, and contractors. The policy applies across the entire campus, including:

- Buildings and residences,
- doorways and entrances,
- walkways, parkland, roads, and car parks,
- pitches and sports facilities (including spectator spaces),
- the curtilage, balconies, terraces, outdoor seating of accommodation, restaurant, and club/bar facilities,
- cars parked on university campus grounds,
- bicycle sheds and bus shelters on university grounds

In addition to the main Castletroy campus, this policy also applies to off campus student accommodation owned by the University, Park Point, the city centre FABLab/Health Hub, the UL Activity Centre, the CERC building at the UL Hospital Group and any other locations owned, leased, or operated by the University.

This policy replaces the University's Smoke Free Policy (Ref: CX021.2), which applied only to buildings. This policy apply to all areas of the University's campuses and aims to:

- Protect all employees, students, contractors, and visitors from exposure to second-hand smoke,

¹ Contractors includes any individual who provides a service to the University, either directly or indirectly or who is employed or engaged by a third-party service provider to the University.

² Visitors includes anyone availing of the University's facilities, including sporting, accommodation, theatre, and dining facilities, as well as people availing of the parkland and riverside walks.

- Comply with the Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2002 and the Regulations made under the Act,

1.2.3 Who is responsible for ensuring that the policy (and any associated procedure) is implemented and monitored?

The ultimate responsibility for the implementation of this policy rests with the University; however, each staff member and student is expected to understand their personal obligation to implement and comply with this policy. It is the duty of each staff member and student to care for his or her own safety, health, and welfare.

The implementation of this policy will be supported by appropriate communications to all relevant parties, as set out below.

It remains the responsibility of Heads of Departments, and in the case of non-departmental areas, the responsibilities of those officers or supervisors in charge of such areas, to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the requirements of the Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2002 are met.

The term “Head of Department” includes all officers of the University who are directly responsible for their own work and that of their subordinates, if any. Besides the Heads of Academic Departments, the term is taken to include Heads of Administrative and Service Departments, Directors of Research Centres and Institutes, and Managers of any premises administered by the University. All line managers have a responsibility to ensure that University policies are implemented, and appropriate actions taken.

All staff and students are encouraged to contribute to the enforcement of this policy, by reminding anyone they see in breach of the policy to desist and to comply with university policy.

1.3 Definitions

1.3.1 Vaping

‘Vaping’ includes the use of electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars, electronic pipes or other such electronic delivery systems intended to simulate smoking, whether they deliver a nicotine dose or not. Electronic / e-cigarettes and other devices contain a fluid that is unregulated and the extent of the damages some of these substances can cause is not known.

1.3.2 Smoking

‘Smoking’ is the act, or habit, of inhaling and exhaling the fumes/smoke of tobacco or other substances and may include cigarettes, pipes, cigars etc. Tobacco contains a substance that is addictive and can have long term ill health effects.

2 Context

2.1 Legal and Regulatory Context

2.1.1 *[Universities Act 1997/relevant legislation]*

[S.I. No. 481/2003 - Tobacco Smoking \(Prohibition\) Regulations 2003 \(irishstatutebook.ie\)](#) 2003

[gov.ie - Tobacco Free Ireland \(www.gov.ie\)](#) 2013

[Tobacco Control Policy - HSE.ie](#)

[Tobacco Free Ireland Programme - HSE.ie](#)

[Quit smoking - HSE.ie](#)

[Tobacco \(who.int\)](#)

2.2 Other Context

Smoking Cessation Programmes

2.2.1 The HSE Primary Care Team in the Mid-West have several Smoking Cessation Officers in post. Members of the University Community, including students and staff may avail of a free eight-week smoking cessation programme.

2.2.2 The Human Resources Department will direct staff, who wish to cease smoking to the appropriate primary health care Health Service Executive (HSE) smoking cessation programmes.

2.2.3 The Student Health Centre within UL will provide first line interventions to students and refer as appropriate to the appropriate HSE primary care smoking cessation provider.

The HSE Stop Smoking Referral Form is available here [Quit Mid-West - Free HSE Stop Smoking Service](#)

In addition, information on smoking cessation is available through the national “Quit” campaign. [www.quit.ie](#) or Freephone 1800 201 203.

3 Policy Statements

3.1 Principles for Smoke and Vape Free Policy

It is the policy of the University of Limerick that its campuses are smoking and vape free.

The University, as a national teaching and research institution, with a strong focus on health care, is committed to promoting health and wellbeing. The University has a leadership role in the HSE UL hospital group and is an important influencer in the cultural and economic life of the Mid-West Region.

Smoking is one of the world's biggest public health threats killing more than seven million people globally a year. Around 890,000 of these deaths are due to exposure to second-hand smoke (Source: WHO). In Ireland, there are almost 5,500 smoking related deaths each year. One in every two long-term smokers will die from a tobacco related disease (Source: HSE).

The University of Limerick aims to create a healthier, smoke and vape free, environment for its employees, students, contractors, and visitors. As a result, smoking and vaping will be prohibited on all University campuses from 1st June 2018.

The university is committed to reviewing this policy should public health, national policy or guidelines change.

'Vaping' includes the use of electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars, electronic pipes or other such electronic delivery systems intended to simulate smoking, whether they deliver a nicotine dose or not.

4 Related Procedures for Smoke and Vape Free Policy

4.1 Communication

It is UL policy that all official University communications/contacts/information will include a statement on the University being a smoking and vaping free campus.

Job advertisements, employment contracts, and all University information booklets and publications should refer to the University having a smoke and vape free campus.

All promotional literature and correspondence with prospective and existing students and staff, including any offer letters, should highlight that the University has a smoking and vaping free campus. Similarly, any University websites should refer to the campus being smoking and vaping free.

The Smoke and Vape Free Campus Policy will be communicated at staff briefings and induction programmes, through written notices and via email. Staff members are required to have a clear understanding of the policy and their role in implementing same and line managers should ensure that all university policies are implemented.

Newly enrolled students will be informed at the time of offer that the University has a smoking and vaping free campus, and this will be reiterated during orientation week. Returning students shall be formally informed in writing (or email).

The University smoking and vaping free campus policy will be communicated to visitors through appropriate signage at entrances to the campuses and through a communications plan.

It is the responsibility of staff members managing contractors directly, or engaging outside service providers, to inform contractors and service providers that the campus is smoking and vaping free.

The University or its subsidiaries where appropriate, shall inform all commercial and residential tenants that the campus is smoking and vaping free.

It is the responsibility of organisers of conferences and events on campus to make all attendees aware that the campus is smoking and vape free.

5 Related Documents

[EU Tobacco Products Directive](#)

ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2563

ec.europa.eu/health/tobacco/products/implementation/report_en

www.hrb.ie/news/press-releases/single-press-release/article/new-health-research-board-evidence-shows-e-cigarettes-are-associated-with-adolescents-starting-to-sm/

[Tobacco Free Research Institute](#)

[Vaping crisis: An unfolding public health disaster \(imt.ie\)](#) March 2020

[Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan 2021-2025](#)

www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/tobaccocontrol/campus/

wsh.leeds.ac.uk/smokefreecampus/doc/smokefree-campus-overview

6 Document Control

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