



UNIVERSITY *of* LIMERICK

O L L S C O I L L U I M N I G H

SMOKE AND VAPE FREE CAMPUS

POLICY

Approved by Governing Authority 17th May 2018

SMOKE AND VAPE FREE CAMPUS POLICY

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 public sector organisations are developing Healthy Workplace frameworks. The University of Limerick is in the process of developing a Healthy UL Framework. The creation of a smoke and vape free campus is a key initial component in the development of a 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).

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.

'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.

Scope

This policy has been developed to:

- Improve the health, safety and welfare of staff, students, contractors* and visitors**,
- Protect all employees, students, contractors and visitors from exposure to second-hand smoke,
- Comply with the Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2002 and the Regulations made under the Act,

**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.*

***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.*

Policy Details

It is the policy of the University of Limerick that its campuses are smoking and vaping free. This policy applies to all staff, students, contractors, visitors, and any other persons who enter university grounds and facilities for any purpose. The policy prohibits smoking anywhere on the campus.

This policy incorporates the statutory requirements of the Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2002 and the recommendation of the Report of the Tobacco Policy Review Group (Department of Health, 2013) to “promote tobacco free campuses for all third-level institutions in consultation with key stakeholders”.

This policy sets out to improve health outcome for all staff, students, visitors and contractors. The policy applies to 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.

Implementation

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 required 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.

Smoking Cessation Programmes

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.

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.

In addition, information on smoking cessation is available through the national “Quit” campaign.

<https://www.quit.ie> or Freephone 1800 201 203.

Communication

It is intended that all official University communications 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 vaping free.

Review

This policy will be reviewed one year after implementation date.