

SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS POLICY

Policy Category:	Governance
Subject:	Smoke-free arrangements on university premises
Approving Authority:	University Executive
Responsible Officer:	Vice-Chancellor & President
Responsible Office:	Estates & Facilities
Related Procedures:	Smoke Free Kings
Related College Policies:	Health Safety & Welfare Policy
Effective Date:	November 2023
Supersedes:	August 2016
Next Review:	August 2025

I. Purpose & Scope

The aims of this policy are to:

- 1) promote the health and wellbeing of King's staff and students by creating and maintaining a healthy environment for the benefit of all staff, students, and visitors.
- 2) protect all staff, students, and visitors from exposure to second-hand smoke and to assist compliance with the Health Act 2006.
- 3) raise awareness of support available to those who wish to give up smoking.
- 4) comply with all other legislation imposing legal duties regarding smoking.

Exposure to second-hand smoke increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other serious illnesses. Ventilation or separating smokers and non-smokers within the same airspace does not completely stop potentially dangerous exposure.

II. Definitions

- i) "smoking" refers to smoking tobacco or anything which contains tobacco, or smoking any other substance, and
- ii) smoking includes being in possession of lit tobacco or of anything lit which contains tobacco or being in possession of any other lit substance in a form in which it could be smoked. This includes cigarettes, pipes (including water pipes such as shisha and hookah pipes), cigars and herbal cigarettes.
- iii) "vaping" refers to e-cigarette use (note, it is not covered by smokefree legislation).
- iv) "vapers" refers to e-cigarette users

III. Policy

It is the policy of King's College London that all our workplaces are smoke-free, and all employees have a right to work in a smoke-free environment.

Smoking is prohibited:

- on all King's College London campuses
- in university vehicles
- immediately outside the entrances and exits of university buildings and near to windows or air intake units even if the individual is standing on a public footpath.
- in all premises operated by or under the control of King's College London. In this context, premises include temporary structures and means university buildings and grounds except adjoining public footpaths or other public areas.

This policy applies to all employees, students and visitors (which includes contractors, consultants and members of the public).

The policy confirms the commitment of King's College London to co-operate with and support the smoke-free policies of its partner NHS Trusts. University staff and students who work in Trust premises shall comply with the policies on smoking that apply to those premises or sites.

Where the university shares sites or facilities with other organisations similar principles apply and the relevant organisational policy will be drawn to the attention of staff and students using the site.

King's College London Students Union (KCLSU) will ensure that any premises, vehicles and events that are under its direction and control are covered by an equivalent policy to safeguard the health of its own staff and that of staff and students at the university who may be affected.

This policy replaces existing and previous smoking policies at all university sites.

IV. E-cigarettes and vaping

Vaping is not covered by smokefree legislation, but for simplicity of policy on this subject it is included here.

Recent government review¹ of evidence regarding the health risks of human exposure to vaping indicated that in the short and medium term, vaping poses a small fraction of the risks of smoking. However, vaping is not risk-free, particularly for people who have never smoked. There is, as yet no evidence that e-cigarettes cause harm to bystanders. It is therefore important that our policy distinguishes between e-cigarettes from tobacco cigarettes.

If charged on university premises, like any device that needs to be plugged in, they should only be charged using the appropriate charger and be PAT tested. E-cigarettes should not be charged in the vicinity of a person using oxygen therapy, the oxygen source itself, or close to other flammable substances. This will also assist in the enforcement of the university's fire safety arrangements.

People with asthma and other respiratory conditions can be sensitive to a range of environmental irritants, which could include e-cigarette vapour, and vaping can in certain circumstances be a nuisance or distraction for people nearby (e.g. excessive visible vapour production, odours etc.).

King's has taken the interests of such individuals into account and therefore allows the use of e-cigarettes only on the grounds of university campuses, but not:

- in university buildings
- In university vehicles

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nicotine-vaping-in-england-2022-evidence-update>

- immediately outside the entrances and exits of university buildings near to windows or air intake units even if the individual is standing on a public footpath.

V Implementation

Appropriate 'no-smoking' signs will be clearly displayed in and around King's premises where smoking is prohibited and in all university vehicles.

Appropriate 'no vaping' signs will be clearly displayed where vaping is not allowed.

Managers and supervisors are responsible for ensuring that staff and students in their sphere of influence and direction are informed of this policy and its aims.

Applicants for all university appointments whether full-time or part-time shall be informed of this policy by their university contact. Newly appointed staff shall be informed of the policy as part of their departmental induction programme. Students will be advised of the policy on joining the university as part of their induction process.

Where university buildings are used by third parties or where members of the public are invited or permitted to use its buildings, adequate warning should be provided to the invitees that the university requires compliance with this policy.

VI Support for smokers

The university will endeavour to provide reasonable assistance and support to staff who wish to stop smoking, for example by publicising or making available self-help guides and other health education guidance or promotional material.

Resources for staff and students who wish to stop smoking is available at [Stop Smoking Resources](#)

Or find information on NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/>