

## LFS Alcohol and Drugs Policy

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This policy addresses the use and abuse of legal (e.g. alcohol, prescription drugs, and performance enhancing drugs) or illegal drugs by students and staff.
- 1.2. LFS recognises that drinking can be an enjoyable and harmless feature of (student) life. Students and staff over the age of 18 are legally free to consume alcohol. LFS, however, has a concern for its students and staff and wishes to try and protect them from the harmful effects of excessive consumption of alcohol.
- 1.3. LFS recognises that it is a criminal offence to take, possess, manufacture or sell illegal drugs. At the same time, we are concerned for students and staff's wellbeing and the impact drugs may have on their health, academic and personal life. It is strongly recommended that any student or member of staff experiencing drug-related issues should seek medical help and counselling.
- 1.4. The misuse of legal drugs (including alcohol, prescription drugs, and performance enhancing drugs) can similarly have impacts upon your health, academic and personal life. Any student or member of staff who feels they are forming a dependency upon legal drugs (or forming some other kind of deleterious relationship with them) should seek medical help.
- 1.5. It is the responsibility of all staff that students are aware of the policy and that, if needed, support is made available to them.
- 1.6. It is the responsibility of all students and staff bringing guests to LFS or LFS-related events to ensure they are aware of this policy.

### 2. Scope

- 2.1. This policy relates to all students, including students on workshops programmes ('students' hereafter) and staff at the London Film School, during hours undertaking work or study and when undertaking activities on behalf of the College or attending LFS-related social events.
- 2.2. The policy also applies to any third party invited to LFS, including visiting lecturers, industry guests, and actors ('guests' hereafter).

### 3. Related Policies and Documents

- LFS Disciplinary Code (students only)
- LFS General Regulations
- LFS Charter
- LFS Employee Handbook (staff only)

### 4. Illegal Drugs

- 4.1. LFS takes all reasonable measures within its powers to discourage the use of illegal drugs and psychoactive substances amongst its students, staff and guests.

- 4.2. We remind students, staff and guests that possession of illegal substances is a criminal offence and that possession with intent to supply is a more serious offence.
- 4.3. It is LFS's policy not to tolerate the use of illegal substances in its buildings and/or during LFS-related activities (e.g. a shoot).
- 4.4. To do so would constitute a criminal offence. Students, staff and guests found to be using or in possession of or knowingly allowing any illegal substance, including cannabis, to be used in contravention of this policy, will face disciplinary action in line with the LFS Disciplinary Code (students), LFS Disciplinary Policy and Procedure (staff) or may be referred to the Police.

## **5. Alcohol at LFS**

- 5.1. The consumption of alcohol by students, staff and guests in LFS's buildings and/or during LFS-related activities (e.g. including on-set and location shoots) is strictly prohibited.
- 5.2. Students, staff and guests suspected to be under the influence of alcohol will be sent home for the day.
- 5.3. If there is uncertainty over a student and guests' fitness to travel home unaccompanied then advice should be sought from a member of the Management Team or the Office Manager.
- 5.4. It is the responsibility of Personal Tutor to discuss with a student as soon as possible if their behaviour, performance or absence indicates a possible problem with alcohol or substance misuse.

## **6. Alcohol During Social Events**

- 6.1. LFS recognises that moderate use of alcohol plays an important and enjoyable role in the social lives of many students, staff and guests and promotes sensible drinking during social events hosted by LFS or the Students' Union.
- 6.2. Events hosted by the Students' Union require the presence of a member of staff chaperone who, amongst other things, will be responsible for the enforcement of this policy.

## **7. Alcohol: Consequences of Failing to Comply with this Policy**

*NB: section 7 of this policy applies to students and guests only; staff: please refer to the Employee Handbook for further information.*

- 7.1. Abuse of alcohol by a minority can, however, be damaging both to those students and members of staff themselves and to those who live and work alongside them.
- 7.2. Anti-social drunken behaviour by students at LFS or during LFS-related events is dealt with by an escalating system of punishments:
  - 7.2.1. The first offence attracts a fine and a warning;
  - 7.2.2. The second offence a stiffer fine and a final warning;
  - 7.2.3. The third brings exclusion from LFS.

- 7.3. Depending on the severity of the offence LFS reserves the right to exclude from LFS or take other serious measures after a first or second offence.
- 7.4. Major offences against the LFS's regulations, such as assault, sometimes lead to students being rusticated (excluded from their studies for one year). These offences are often committed under the influence of alcohol. Students should be aware that LFS does not regard drunkenness as reducing the gravity of such offences.

**8. Version Control**

Version Number	Changes	Author, Title	Date
0.1	-	Philip Ramge, Academic Registrar	10/11/2017
1.0	Approved by Academic Board	-	14/11/2017