

SMOKE FREE POLICY

TO WHOM THIS POLICY APPLIES

Staff at all levels, students, third parties (e.g. contractors) and visitors.

This policy replaces all previous and existing policies dealing with smoking and vaping at all Imperial sites.

POLICY AIMS

The aims of this policy are to:

- promote the health and wellbeing of Imperial's staff and students by creating and maintaining a healthy environment for the benefit of all staff, students and visitors;
- raise awareness of support available to those who wish to give up smoking; and
- comply with health and safety and other relevant legislation.

POLICY RATIONALE

At Imperial, the health and wellbeing of our community is a top priority in order to maintain a healthy working and educational environment for staff, students and visitors.

This policy aligns with the Smoke-Free policy in place within the NHS, and is also in line with recommendations from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE).

This policy facilitates Imperial's compliance with the Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026; Health & Safety at Work Act 1974; Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999; the Health Act 2006 and Smokefree regulations which came into effect in 2007 and 2012.

In addition to compliance, it is recognised that exposure to tobacco smoke either by smoking or passive smoking is the largest single preventable cause of death and disease in the UK. In addition, passive smoking can be uncomfortable for other members of the community, particularly those with pre-existing respiratory conditions. Long-term and excessive vaping can also lead to serious health issues, including cardiovascular disease, lung damage, and exposure to harmful substances.

Evidence also shows that smoke-free policies are associated with reductions in the prevalence of smoking and vaping, as well as exposure to second-hand smoke, and improvement in smoking behaviour (i.e. fewer cigarettes and vapes smoked).

Health and safety is a shared responsibility, where employers have the primary duty of care, but all employees are legally required to take reasonable care of themselves and others. Implementation of this policy therefore depends critically not only on the support and example of management at all levels but also a clear understanding by our whole community of our shared responsibilities to ensure a healthy environment for ourselves and others.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Smoking and vaping are not permitted in University buildings or outside areas on University campuses or in University vehicles.

- 1.1 In line with its duty of care to staff and students, Imperial is committed to creating and maintaining a healthy environment.
- 1.2 All Imperial campuses and properties are fully smoke and vape free, with the limited exception of Beit Quad (South Kensington) on Wednesday & Friday evenings during term time when major ticketed events are being held;
- 1.3 Imperial will comply with all legislative requirements on the control of smoking. The term 'smoking' includes all substances that a person can smoke by whatever method, including vapes and e-cigarettes.
- 1.4 Smoking and vaping are not permitted by any member of Imperial's community (including students, staff and third-party contractors):
 - 1.4.1 Inside any building or substantially enclosed spaces, owned or used by Imperial for the conduct of Imperial business
 - 1.4.2 On Imperial land or on pavement's next to windows, doors or air vents of Imperial buildings
 - 1.4.3 Inside any vehicle owned or operated by Imperial including hired/leased vehicles
 - 1.4.4 Anywhere on medical campuses
 - 1.4.5 On major pedestrian routes through Imperial campuses, where designated
 - 1.4.6 In all Imperial Halls of Residence, which are designated no smoking
 - 1.4.7 On land that is deemed to be public right of way across Imperial land e.g. Princes Gardens or Imperial College Road.

2. Smoke-free locations

- 2.1 All Imperial Campuses and properties are smoke free. This means that smoking and vaping by staff, students and visitors is not permitted on Imperial land, or on pavements next to the doors, windows and air vents of Imperial buildings.

Campuses and properties include:

- South Kensington
- Medical Campuses
 - Charing Cross
 - Hammersmith
 - St Mary's
 - Chelsea & Westminster
 - Royal Brompton
- Silwood Park
- White City Campus
- Grapht Works
- Halls of Residences
- Harlington and other sports facilities

3. All staff and student members of the Imperial community have the right to ask others to comply with this policy, and not to smoke or vape.

- 3.1 All members of Imperial are asked, and particularly those in a management position, to contribute to the enforcement of this policy, by politely asking anyone they see breaching it to desist. If you approach someone who is smoking or vaping on campus and they refuse to desist, please email smoke-free-imperial@imperial.ac.uk.
- 3.2 Security Officers will perform routine patrols and respond to reports of anyone seen smoking and vaping on or near Imperial campuses.

4. Responsibility for compliance with this policy rests with all Imperial members.

- 4.1 If you manage or are in charge of any premises or vehicles to which the above laws apply, you have a legal responsibility to make them smoke-free.
- 4.2 **Heads of Departments/Divisions** are additionally responsible for:
- Ensuring that staff, students and visitors are aware of the Policy, and taking steps to encourage full compliance.
 - Taking appropriate disciplinary action if staff or students breach the Policy.
 - Asking contractors/visitors to leave Imperial property if they refuse to comply with this policy.
 - Ensuring that there is appropriate signage in vehicles owned or

operated by their Department/Division.

4.3 The **Director of South Kensington Campus and Director of White City, Medical and Silwood Campuses** are also responsible for ensuring that appropriate No Smoking signs or flags are posted at entrances to all buildings, and prominently around all campuses.

4.4 **Hall Wardens** are responsible for:

- Ensuring that students in halls of residence are aware of the Policy, and taking steps to encourage full compliance.
- Taking appropriate disciplinary action if students breach the Policy.

4.5 The **Director of Occupational Health** is responsible for ensuring the provision of accurate and up to date information to staff and students on the [services and support available to those wishing to stop smoking](#).

4.6 Any continued non-compliance by the Imperial community will result in disciplinary action as a breach of the staff and student Codes of Conduct. Partners or third parties who do not comply with this policy will be asked to leave the premises and could result in termination of contract.

5. Support for smokers

For staff and students who would like more information and are considering quitting smoking, a range of support is available through the NHS. Please see our Health and Wellbeing web page for further information and assistance: [Support to help you stop smoking | Staff | Imperial College London](#)

The NHS has a 'Quit Smoking' website at: [Quit smoking - Better Health - NHS](#)

Additionally, those students on placement with NHS Trusts can also utilise any local Trust arrangements to assist with quitting smoking.

POLICY AND DOCUMENT CONTROL	
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Related internal policies, procedures, guidance:	
Division / Department / Function:	People Function
Policy owner:	Provost and Deputy President
Point of contact(s):	Claire O'Brien, Director of Occupational Health