



Alcohol Policy

(Final Document)

Introduction

The University of the West Indies understands that the decision to consume alcohol is a personal one. However, it is imperative that the individual, who chooses to drink, does so responsibly; understands the effects of alcohol; makes sound judgement about its use; and understands that he or she will be held responsible for any unlawful action that may result from alcohol use and abuse by civil authorities and/or The University of the West Indies.

The University acknowledges that the vast majority of its student population is of legal age (18 years), but cannot disregard incidents of alcohol misuse which result in vehicular accidents, personal injuries, vandalism, alcohol poisoning, poor academic and work performance, sexual harassment and undesired and harmful sexual activity, verbal and physical abuse, and violence.

The University believes that standards relating to the use of alcohol will be best upheld when they are shared and applied to the entire community.

Additional information, complementary to the Alcohol Policy can be found in the Expanded Appendices.

Policy

1. This University Policy complies with the provisions of the National Legislation concerning alcohol use and abuse, including those pertaining to driving while under the influence of alcohol. In addition, the University will enforce, and be guided by, relevant recommendations related to alcohol use emanating from the Consumer Affairs Division and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). This will apply equally to all community members, including staff, students, alumni and guests. **(See Appendix 9).**
2. The legal drinking age at The University of the West Indies is 18 years. No person under the legal drinking age will be allowed to purchase, sell, distribute, serve or consume alcohol on the premises. All students being served alcohol are required to present proof of age upon request.
3. Servers of alcohol have the right to card students for proof of legal age, before serving alcohol.
4. The use of alcohol in public spaces is strictly prohibited, with the exception of approved events (whereby the area used to serve alcohol is a licensed space). It is understood that the term “public” refers to any area to which community members have general access. Appropriate signs must identify these public spaces.
5. Rooms on Halls of Residence are considered private spaces, where students of legal drinking age may consume alcohol. However, residents on hall are also governed by the Alcohol Policy, including the consumption of alcohol in public spaces on hall and the provision of alcohol to minors regardless of the space within which it is provided.
6. Applications for public events where alcohol is served must be approved by the Campus Registrar or his representative on behalf of the Alcohol Policy Committee. Approved representatives must also obtain a liquor licence in order to serve and sell alcohol at approved public special events. **(See Appendix 8 for application form).**
7. Alcohol may also be made available in special circumstances on the approval of the Campus Registrar and governed by guidelines on hosting. **(See Appendix 7).** Applicants may also, in the appropriate circumstances, request approval in advance from the Campus Registrar for a range of regular activities.

8. Student events where alcohol will be served shall not be publicized until approval is obtained from a representative of the Alcohol Policy Committee.
9. Event planners and hosts of approved functions are required to be mindful of the issues surrounding the use and abuse of alcohol and to plan for the safety and well-being of participants. Servers of alcohol shall refuse to serve any person who in their opinion is intoxicated or behaving in a disorderly manner.
10. Appropriate security and doorkeepers (bouncers) must be assigned to events to manage and control who enters and leaves the function or event and to ensure that alcohol is not introduced or removed from the venue unofficially.
11. The University has designated the Campus Bar as the main designated private space on Campus where students and staff are permitted the responsible use of alcohol. This area is enclosed and out of general public access. The University's bar facility must adhere to the special Terms and Conditions of Operations to which operators must agree (**See Appendix 6**). The Senior Common Room (SCR) and the Staff Social Club are also licensed private spaces for staff where drinking is permitted.
12. The designated hours for the sale or distribution of Alcohol throughout Campus, regardless of the nature of the event (private, public, or administrative function) will be from 4 pm to 11pm. Only public events where special event operators have obtained a Liquor License will be permitted to sell alcohol until one hour before the event must end.
13. All alcohol beverages must be consumed in plastic cups or cans. No glass bottles, glasses, pitchers, kegs or large containers of alcohol are permitted on Campus premises. Activities that encourage the drinking of alcohol will not be permitted. This includes happy hour specials, free drinks, and drinking contests.
14. Sufficient quantities of food and non-alcoholic beverages must also be served and visibly displayed at all functions and public events for which the use of alcohol is approved.
15. No alcoholic drinks other than provided directly by the organizers of the function or event, or sold at the licensed premises, may be introduced into the venue.
16. At student functions, which serve alcohol, University and/or national identification cards may be required for entry.
17. It is recommended that organizers, hosts, servers of alcohol and other responsible persons associated with the management and control of events at which alcohol is served should receive training relevant to the use and abuse of alcohol by patrons.
18. There will be no marketing or sponsorship of alcoholic beverages on Campus. In addition, sponsorship from alcohol beverage companies for academic funding, scholarships, bursaries and sporting and recreational events is also prohibited. Any sponsorship of non-academic events by alcohol beverage companies should not be advertised using promotional items. Alcohol may also be donated for special events, but must not be purchased using guild/student/academic funds.
19. The University will ensure, to the best of its ability, that all staff and students receive relevant education and treatment, as necessary, to prevent and reduce alcohol abuse through internal and external initiatives. This includes collaboration with other stakeholders responsible for the delivery of such treatment and education. (**See Appendix 5b for Guidelines for the treatment, assessment and counselling of students**).
20. Students found in violation of this sanction will be disciplined according to the Penalties outlined in the rules and regulations of the University as it relates to the Alcohol Policy. (**See Appendix 5a for Guidelines on enforcement of Policy**).
21. Guidelines for enforcement of the policy on alcohol use, as well as for treatment and counseling can be found in the **Employees' Intoxicants and Prohibited Substance Abuse Procedure and the General Test Procedures**.

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