



STRANMILLIS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
A College of Queen's University Belfast

# No Smoking Policy

Version No:	Reason for Update	Date of Update	Updated By
1	Policy updated to cover the use of e-cigarettes	April 2015	Estates
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## 1. Introduction

The University College aims to promote the health and well-being of its students, staff and visitors and provide a healthy working and educational environment for all. Smoking is harmful to the health of smokers and others exposed to exhaled tobacco smoke (ETS). ETS has been shown to cause lung cancer and heart disease in non-smokers and it exacerbates asthma and a variety of other medical conditions.

The College has therefore decided that smoking of tobacco products will be restricted on University College premises and it is the responsibility of all staff to ensure the implementation of this policy.

It has also been decided that e-cigarette use will be restricted on University College premises and it is the responsibility of all staff to ensure the implementation of this policy. See Appendix A.

## 2. Policy

The University College will comply with its obligations by implementing the following policy.

**Smoking tobacco and e-cigarettes is prohibited in all University College buildings (including the Halls of Residence), temporary buildings and within three metres of an entrance to a building.  
Smoking is not allowed in any University College owned vehicles.**

## 3. Timing

The policy was introduced from the commencement of the 2005-06 academic year, i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005 for tobacco related items and the policy has been amended in April 2015 for the use of e-cigarettes.

## 4. Staff and Students

The policy will become part of the contract of employment of all staff. It will also be included in the General Student Regulations of the University College.

## 5. Staff, Contractors and Visitors

Staff, contractors and visitors will be expected to comply with the policy. They will be informed of its existence by the following:

- The policy will be made available on the Human Resources section of the University College Website
- The policy will be referred to in job descriptions

- The policy will be referred to in contractors' tender documentation
- The policy will be referred to in the booking process for all internal and external groups booking University College facilities

## 6. Implementation

The responsibility for implementation of this policy rests with line managers. Support will be provided by Senior Management and the HR Manager, drawing on assistance from the Occupational Health Service.

## 7. Enforcement

Breaches of this policy will be subject to the normal disciplinary procedures applicable to staff or students as appropriate. Visitors who fail to comply when the policy is specifically brought to their notice will be required to leave the building or the area.

## 8. Review

A review of the policy will be carried out every three years. The review will be carried out by the Corporate Planning Team and reported to the Governing Body

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Dr Anne Heaslett  
Principal

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Date: April 2015  
Review Date: April 2018  
For distribution to: All Staff

## **Electronic Cigarettes (E-cigarettes)**

The use of electronic cigarettes is an issue which is now more prevalent and the University College is keen to take a responsible approach to their use.

E-cigarettes are battery-powered products designed to replicate smoking behaviour without the use of tobacco. E-cigarettes contain nicotine, and a variety of other chemicals. Studies have shown that the vapours from e-cigarettes have been found to contain carcinogens and toxins.

The British Medical Association (BMA) note that e-cigarettes are currently subject to limited regulation, they are not currently licensed as a medicine in the UK, and there is no peer-reviewed evidence that they are safe or effective as an aid to stopping smoking.

In October 2013, the European Parliament passed a draft law to introduce a raft of measures aimed at regulating e-cigarettes to ensure they are a safe and effective way of cutting down or quitting smoking.

The BMA believes the existing smoke-free legislation in place in the UK should be extended to include vapour from e-cigarettes. As an interim measure, the BMA recommend that e-cigarettes are prohibited in workplaces and public places, in order to (a) limit second-hand exposure to the vapour exhaled by the user ('passive vaping'), and (b) to ensure their use does not undermine smoking prevention and cessation by leading people to believe it is acceptable to smoke.

At the meeting of the University College Health and Safety Committee on 9th March 2015 the Committee made the decision to recommend that the University College's Smoking Policy should be extended to cover e-cigarettes in the same way as it covers conventional cigarettes, in line with current guidance from the BMA. Should the BMA or other authoritative guidance alter significantly in the future, then it is anticipated that our No Smoking Policy will require to be updated accordingly.

### **Further Information**

BMA information on electronic Cigarettes: <http://bma.org.uk/working-for-change/improving-and-protecting-health/tobacco/e-cigarettes>

European Parliament News

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/pdfs/news/expert/infopress/20131004IPR21539/20131004IPR21539\\_en.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/pdfs/news/expert/infopress/20131004IPR21539/20131004IPR21539_en.pdf)