

Smoking Policy Statement 2016-2017

Policy Statement

Under the provisions of the Health Act 2006 it is illegal to smoke in enclosed or substantially enclosed public places and workplaces.

The Royal Agricultural University takes seriously its responsibilities and obligations under the new law and expects all staff and students to respond appropriately. Any member of staff or student found to be in breach of the Law or University policy will be dealt with through the appropriate disciplinary procedures.

The University has chosen to extend the smoking ban to all our buildings including student residencies. Any student caught in the act of, or allowing / enabling others to smoke, or if evidence is found that smoking has occurred within the building / bedroom will receive a £100 fine and three penalty points on their student conduct record. Repeat and persistent offenders can ultimately expect to face a formal disciplinary which may result in eviction from halls of residence.

Smoking is also prohibited in or near any of the farm buildings.

“Substantially enclosed” means a space having a ceiling/roof with less than half of the wall area permanently open.

Smoking is not permitted in close proximity to building entrances or where it could be a nuisance to others.

As a general guidance, no smoking within 5 meters of any building entrance.

The prohibition of smoking does not apply to the University’s grounds and open spaces - provided that smokers do not permit their smoke to enter a building or enclosed space through windows, doors or openings or cause a nuisance.

A quick guide to the Smoke Free Law 2007

England became smoke free on 1st July 2007. The new law was introduced to protect employees and the public from the harmful effects of second hand smoke.

- From 1st July 2007 it became against the law to smoke in all enclosed public places, work places and public and work vehicles.
- Indoor smoking rooms in all public and work places will no longer be allowed.
- Managers of smoke free premises and vehicles have legal responsibilities to prevent people from smoking.
- Managers of smoke free premises will have a legal requirement to display appropriate no smoking signs.

- The new law applies to anything that can be smoked including cigarettes, pipes, (to include water pipes such as shisha and hookah pipes), cigars and herbal cigarettes.
- Failure to comply with the new law will be a criminal offence for which penalties and fines are set out below.
- Smoking is prohibited (including e-cigarettes in all RAU buildings. The penalty for smoking or allowing smoking is a fixed penalty of £100.
- Failure to display no smoking signs: a fixed penalty notice of £250 on the manager or occupiers of the smoke free premises or vehicle. Or a maximum fine plus £1000 if prosecuted and convicted by a court.
- Failing to prevent smoking in a smoke free place: a maximum fine of £2,500 to be imposed on the manager or person controlling the smoke free premises or vehicle if prosecuted and convicted by a court.
- Along with the property manager responsibilities, local councils will be responsible for enforcing the new rule.

E-Cigarettes / Vaping

Whilst e-cigarettes are not regulated as a tobacco product or as a medicine in the UK, the use of e-cigarettes may undermine smoking prevention and cessation by reinforcing the normalcy of cigarette use in public and work places.

Employees who see co-workers use e-cigarettes may try to smoke real cigarettes in the work place or at least question why they cannot do so.

It is possible that the vapour emitted from e-cigarettes could be an annoyance to co-workers.

It is possible that some e-cigarette vapours could be a health risk to the person using e-cigarettes and others exposed to the vapours.

For the above reasons, The Royal Agricultural University prohibits the use of e-cigarettes in enclosed or substantially enclosed public places and workplaces.

The RAU currently considers ecigarettes / vaping in the same regard as conventional tobacco smoking.

A fixed penalty fine of £100 will be applied for each occasion.

Smoking Cessation Support

If you want to give up smoking and the introduction of the 'Smoke-free' legislation has provided you with the incentive to do so, then there is lots of help available.

The University's Employee Assistance Provider, Validium, provides a confidential telephone service offering information and support on a range of issues – 0800 3 58 48 58

Also the NHS has an array of support available so that you can choose the one that best suits you. All methods put you in touch with professional help:-

- www.gosmokefree.co.uk- An online resource for all the advice, information and support needed to stop and stay stopped.

- Local NHS Stop Smoking Services - This Service will get you working with a trained adviser, either in a group or one-to-one – it's up to you. To find your local service, call the NHS Smoking Helpline free on 0800 169 0 169 (lines are open daily from 7am to 11pm) or visit gosmokefree.co.uk

- Together - This support programme is free to join, and is designed to help you stop smoking using both medical research as well as insights from ex-smokers. You can choose to receive emails, text messages, mailing packs and phone calls. For more information call the NHS Smoking Helpline on 0800 169 0 169 or visit gosmokefree.co.uk.

Contact us

For any queries concerning this policy please contact the Estates Department