

**Policy name: Alcohol and Drugs Policy**

**Approved: 25th November 2016**

**Revision 1 approved 10th March 2017**

**Revision 2 approved**

**Revision 3 approved by Trinity Academic Council 13th May 2020**

## **1. Context**

- 1.1 The National Alcohol Policy (1996) recommended that third level institutions develop drug and alcohol policies. The Royal Irish Academy of Music, hereinafter referred to as RIAM or the Academy, recognises that consumption of alcohol by its students is culturally and legally acceptable once above the age of 18, but abuse of alcohol can have severe social and health effects.
- 1.2 RIAM has a clear 'no drugs' policy.

## **2. Purpose**

- 2.1 This policy supports students' health and wellbeing.
- 2.2 This policy promotes personal responsibility towards moderate alcohol consumption.
- 2.3 This policy sets out RIAM's rules regarding alcohol and drugs.
- 2.4 This policy provides alcohol-related information for students.

## **3. Benefits**

- 3.1 Students and staff will have the capacity to judge whether they or other members of the Academy are contravening RIAM's drug and alcohol policy.
- 3.2 Students and staff can maintain a healthy attitude to alcohol.
- 3.3 Enabling a clear and consistent response if alcohol or drug abuse is discovered.

## **4. Scope**

- 4.1 This policy applies to all students and staff of RIAM.

## **5. Principles**

- 5.1 RIAM adheres to the guidelines contained in the National Alcohol Policy (1996).
- 5.2 RIAM is dedicated to safeguarding the mental and physical health of its students.

## 6. Policy

### 6.1 Drugs:

6.1.1 RIAM has a clear 'no drugs' policy and those found to be in breach will be subject to disciplinary procedures.

### 6.2 Alcohol:

6.2.1 The Academy recognises the place of moderate alcohol consumption in students' social lives and supports a sensible attitude to the consumption of alcohol.

6.2.2 The potential of alcohol abuse to adversely affect students' well-being and academic progress is also recognised.

6.2.3 The following rules (6.2.4 – 6.2.9) must be adhered to by staff and students.

6.2.4 Consumption of alcohol in public places in RIAM, other than at approved receptions, is prohibited.

6.2.5 Receptions providing alcoholic drinks must also provide soft drinks.

6.2.6 Being under the influence of alcohol will not excuse unacceptable behaviour by students or exempt them from disciplinary procedures.

6.2.7 The advertisement of specific events by RIAM student societies should not identify access to free or cheap alcohol as an incentive to attendance.

6.2.8 No events should be organised which encourage the rapid consumption of alcohol, nor should alcohol be awarded as a prize or reward for competitive events.

6.2.9 Sponsorship by the drinks industry of events is permissible, provided the sponsorship is primarily in monetary form and not in product material form, thus allowing groups, clubs and societies to determine their own needs. The alcohol brand names should not be the main focus of the poster. (National Alcohol Policy, 1996)

6.2.10 Staff and students found to be in breach of this policy will be subject to RIAM's Disciplinary Procedures.

## 7. Responsibility

7.1 The RIAM Secretary is responsible for overseeing this policy and its operational procedures.

## 8. Legislation and Regulation

8.1 [National Alcohol Policy \(1996\)](#).

8.2 [Qualifications and Quality Assurance \(Education and Training\) Act 2012](#).

8.3 [Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area \(2005\)](#).

8.4 [National Framework of Qualifications \(NFQ\).](#)

## **9. Related Documents**

9.1 Staff Grievance and Mediation Policy.

9.2 Staff Disciplinary Policy.

## **10. Document Control**

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Next review: Academic year 2020/21.