



MANIPAL
ACADEMY of HIGHER EDUCATION
DUBAI CAMPUS
(Institution of Eminence Deemed to be University)



Policy for Substance and Alcohol Abuse

2026-2027

Index	Page
1. Introduction	3
2. Policy requirements and prohibited conduct	3
3. Policy Statement	4
4. Approach & Strategy	4
5. Applicability of Policy	5
6. Definitions	6
7. The Extent of this Policy	7
8. Enforcement	8
9. Disciplinary Action for Substance (Drug) and Alcohol Abuse	8
10. Disciplinary Review Committee for Substance and Alcohol Abuse	9
11. Disciplinary Procedures for Incidents reported on Campus	10
12. Awareness Activities	12
13. Conclusion	13
14. Annexure 1 - STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CONSENT	14

1. INTRODUCTION

Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Dubai (MAHE Dubai) is committed to maintaining a safe, healthy and responsible campus environment. The possession, use, misuse, distribution or being under the influence of prohibited or controlled substances can pose serious risks to individual health and safety, academic performance and the wellbeing of the wider University community. Such conduct will be addressed in accordance with university regulations and applicable UAE laws.

MAHE Dubai does not permit unlawful substance-related activities and is committed to addressing any such concerns in accordance with University regulations and applicable UAE laws, while also recognising the importance of prevention, early intervention and appropriate support. The University promotes awareness, responsible behaviour and help-seeking and will facilitate appropriate referral and support where required, in accordance with Federal Decree-Law No. 30 of 2021 concerning Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, as amended, and other applicable UAE federal and Emirate-level regulations.

Legal Frameworks in UAE

Federal Decree Law No. 30 of 2021 (Combating Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances): Prohibits possession, use, or distribution of illegal drugs; penalties range from imprisonment to deportation, with rehabilitation offered for first-time offenders.

Alcohol: In accordance with Article 363 of UAE Federal Decree-Law No. 31 of 2021, the consumption of alcohol is strictly prohibited in all unauthorized public areas and institutional spaces.

2. POLICY REQUIREMENTS AND PROHIBITED CONDUCT

- **Absolute Zero-Tolerance:** The possession, consumption, sale, or distribution of illegal drugs, psychotropic substances, or unauthorized alcohol is strictly forbidden on campus premises, student residences, and institution-sponsored events.
- **Being Under the Influence:** Reporting to classes, accessing campus facilities, or performing any university-related activity while under the influence of any mind-altering substance is a severe violation, regardless of where the substance was consumed.
- **Vaping and Tobacco Restrictions:** Smoking and vaping, including the use of electronic cigarettes, nicotine pods, shisha, and shisha pens, are permitted only in designated smoking and vaping areas on campus. Their use is strictly prohibited in all other areas of the University and must at all times comply with applicable UAE laws, regulations, and University policies.
- **Prescription & Controlled Medication:** Students taking controlled or narcotic medical treatments must legally declare them via official prescription documentation to the Office of Student Affairs.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

Substance & Alcohol abuse impairs rational thinking and actions of students and may lead to an unhealthy environment within the campus. Recognizing that professional assistance can often help the affected individual to return to full productivity, MAHE Dubai holds that it is the student's right and responsibility to seek professional assistance for a substance abuse problem.

MAHE Dubai expects all students to uphold the University's academic, behavioral, and ethical standards. The University is committed to supporting its students while maintaining a safe and conducive learning environment.

MAHE Dubai reserves the right to take appropriate action when substance or alcohol use adversely affects a student's academic performance, conduct, or the well-being of the campus community. The University encourages students to seek timely professional support and remains committed to facilitating appropriate guidance, intervention, and rehabilitation whenever necessary.

4. APPROACH & STRATEGY

This policy adopts a proactive and preventive approach through awareness, education, early identification, counselling, and student support initiatives. The primary focus is to prevent the use of alcohol and prohibited substances by fostering informed decision-making, responsible behavior, and a culture of accountability within the University community.

To achieve the objectives of this policy, MAHE Dubai will adopt the following strategies:

- Promote awareness and educate students on the harmful effects of alcohol and substance abuse on individual well-being, academic success, and campus safety.
- Foster a culture of personal responsibility, informed decision-making, and ethical conduct among students.
- Conduct preventive education programs, workshops, and awareness campaigns on substance and alcohol abuse.
- Encourage students to seek appropriate guidance and support when faced with challenges related to substance use or peer influence.
- Strengthen collaboration among students, faculty, and staff to promote a safe, healthy, and inclusive campus environment.
- Establish mechanisms for the timely identification and appropriate referral of students who may require support or counselling.

- Ensure that cases involving suspected substance or alcohol abuse are addressed with sensitivity, confidentiality, and in accordance with university policies and applicable laws.
- Promote continuous review and enhancement of awareness initiatives and preventive measures to ensure their effectiveness.
- Facilitate training, documentation, and information sharing to strengthen the University's prevention and awareness efforts.

5. APPLICABILITY OF THE POLICY

This Policy applies to all students of Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Dubai (MAHE Dubai), including exchange and visiting students, and covers all University-sponsored, organized, or affiliated activities, whether conducted on or off campus.

The scope of this Policy includes, but is not limited to, academic and administrative premises, student residences, field trips, sports events, conferences, student activities, cultural programs, and any other events or engagements undertaken under the auspices of MAHE Dubai.

MAHE Dubai reserves the right to take cognizance of complaints or incidents involving its students, irrespective of whether they occur on or off campus, and to address such matters in accordance with this Policy and the applicable laws and regulations of the United Arab Emirates.

6. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions shall apply:

- **Abuse:** The inappropriate, unlawful, or unauthorized use of alcohol, prohibited substances, or any behavior arising from such use that adversely affects an individual's well-being, academic performance, campus safety, or the University's operations. This includes disorderly, disruptive, aggressive, or violent conduct and the possession of items reasonably suspected to be associated with substance use.
- **Alcohol:** Any beverage or substance containing ethyl alcohol or similar intoxicating ingredients.
- **Campus:** All facilities, premises, and properties owned, leased, operated, or controlled by MAHE Dubai.
- **Contract Staff:** Any individual employed by a contractor, subcontractor, or service provider engaged by MAHE Dubai.
- **Distribution:** The unlawful sale, transfer, exchange, or supply of prohibited substances to another individual.
- **Expulsion:** Permanent removal of a student from the University and/or its programs.

- **MAHE Dubai Community:** Includes students, faculty, staff, residents, contractors, and any other individuals associated with MAHE Dubai.
- **Outsider:** Any individual who is not a member of the MAHE Dubai community.
- **Resident:** Any student residing in MAHE Residence Hall.
- **Student:** Any individual enrolled at MAHE Dubai, including exchange, visiting, and special program students.
- **Substance:** Any narcotic, psychotropic, intoxicating, or mind-altering substance prohibited under the laws of the United Arab Emirates, including but not limited to cannabis, cocaine, heroin, amphetamines, MDMA, ketamine, and other controlled substances as prescribed by applicable legislation.
- **Suspension:** Temporary restriction from attending classes, examinations, University activities, or accessing University facilities for a specified period.
- **Under the Influence of Alcohol:** A condition in which an individual's physical, mental, or behavioral faculties are impaired due to the consumption of alcohol, as determined through observable behavior, authorized testing, or applicable legal standards.

7. EXTENT OF THE POLICY

This Policy applies to all incidents involving the possession, use, purchase, sale, distribution, transportation, storage, or suspected abuse of alcohol, prohibited substances, or other intoxicants by members of the MAHE Dubai community, irrespective of whether such incidents occur on campus, in university-managed accommodation, or at university-sponsored activities.

- **Category 1: Institutional Action by MAHE Dubai**

MAHE Dubai shall initiate appropriate action when a complaint or report is received against a student or any member of the MAHE Dubai community concerning the possession, use, purchase, sale, distribution, transportation, storage, or abuse of alcohol or prohibited substances. Such matters will be addressed in accordance with this Policy and applicable laws and regulations of the United Arab Emirates.

- **Category 2: Referral to Law Enforcement Authorities**

Any incident involving an external party (non-MAHE Dubai community member) or any matter requiring statutory intervention shall be referred to the relevant law enforcement authorities. MAHE Dubai will cooperate fully with the appropriate authorities in accordance with the laws of the United Arab Emirates.

8. ENFORCEMENT

MAHE Dubai strictly prohibits possession, consumption, distribution, sale, or being under the influence of alcohol or prohibited substances on university premises, University-managed accommodation, or during any University-sponsored activities. Any violation of this Policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion.

The University may take appropriate measures when there is reasonable suspicion that a student is under the influence of alcohol or prohibited substances. Indicators may include, but are not limited to:

- Unusual or impaired speech, behavior, or coordination.
- Signs of confusion, disorientation, or reduced responsiveness.
- Aggressive, disruptive, or inappropriate conduct.
- Observable physical indicators suggesting impairment.
- Possession of items reasonably suspected to be associated with substance or alcohol use.

Where deemed necessary and in accordance with applicable laws and University procedures, MAHE Dubai reserves the right to conduct inspections of university premises and personal belongings. Students are expected to cooperate with any authorized inquiry or investigation.

Failure to cooperate with a lawful investigation or refusal to comply with reasonable requests made by authorized University officials may constitute a violation of this Policy and may result in disciplinary action.

Incidents involving alcohol or prohibited substances may be referred to the relevant law enforcement authorities, and MAHE Dubai will cooperate fully in accordance with the laws and regulations of the United Arab Emirates.

9. DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR SUBSTANCE AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

MAHE Dubai will take appropriate disciplinary action against any student found to be involved in the possession, use, purchase, sale, distribution, transportation, or storage of alcohol or prohibited substances, in accordance with the provisions of this Policy.

Students are advised that violations of this Policy may result in disciplinary measures, including suspension, expulsion, or any other action deemed appropriate by the University, depending on the nature and severity of the incident.

In addition to university disciplinary procedures, individuals may be subject to investigation and prosecution under the applicable laws and regulations of the United Arab Emirates, including Federal Decree-Law No. 30 of 2021 on Combating Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances and other relevant legislation governing the possession, use, and distribution of prohibited substances.

10. DISCIPLINARY REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR SUBSTANCE AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

Head – Student Affairs, Dean/Associate Dean, or Head of Department (HOD), as applicable, shall constitute a Disciplinary Review Committee for Substance and Alcohol Abuse to review and address matters pertaining to substance and alcohol-related violations under this Policy.

The Committee shall be responsible for conducting inquiries, reviewing facts and evidence, and making recommendations in accordance with university policies and applicable laws. To ensure impartiality and maintain the integrity of the decision-making process, the final disciplinary authority shall be Pro Vice Chancellor, who will not be part of this committee.

Role	Team	Responsibilities
Chair	Dean/Associate Dean	Issue a notice to the students involved about the charges and ask them to be present for the meeting with the Disciplinary enquiry committee.
Members	Head – Office of Student Affairs • Chief Warden / Block Warden • Head of Department (HOD)/ Faculty Representative	• Review of complaints, reports, and referrals related to suspected substance and alcohol policy violations. • Conduct fair, impartial, and confidential investigations by examining evidence and statements. • Provide students an opportunity to present their perspective. • Assess the severity and impact of violations on the University community. • Recommend appropriate disciplinary or corrective actions in line with university policies and UAE laws. • Ensure all proceedings are handled with confidentiality, fairness, and respect for individual rights.
Convener	Office of Student Affairs Representative	Will conduct and record the minutes of the meeting and submit the final minutes of meeting to Pro Vice Chancellor.

11. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES FOR INCIDENTS REPORTED ON CAMPUS

Step 1: Incident Documentation

As soon as an incident pertaining to substance and alcohol abuse involving MAHE Dubai student(s) is reported, the person concerned (Chief Warden / Warden / Security Officers / Faculty / any other authorities of MAHE) MUST

1. Prepare an Incident Report along with all the evidence available (details of confiscation such as location, time, names of the people involved, etc.)
2. Confiscate the substance or alcohol found with the student and preserve it as evidence.

The same MUST be properly documented
Step 2: Incident Report Submission The incident report should be prepared and submitted by the person who detects or identifies the violation within 24 hours of the incident. This report is filed with the Office of Student Affairs for record keeping purposes.
1. Incident in Academic Premises – Incident report must be handed over to Head - Office of Student Affairs.
2. Incident in Residence Hall – Incident report must be handed over to Head - Office of Student Affairs.
Step 3: Preliminary Action The Head - Office of Student Affairs will inform the concerned Dean/Associate Dean to initiate the following steps:
1. Suspend the student(s) involved, from the institution
2. Inform parents / guardian about the case
3. Instruct Parents to meet concerned Dean/Associate Dean within a week of suspension of student(s)
4. Constitute a Disciplinary Review Committee for Prevention of Substance and Alcohol Abuse (Refer Table 1), to hold an enquiry within 48 hours of the receipt of the incident report.
Step 4: Enquiry Proceedings The Disciplinary Review Committee for Prevention of Substance Abuse will conduct an enquiry based on the incident report
1. The statement of student(s) must be obtained and properly documented.
2. The apology statement (if any) must be taken from the student(s) involved, with all details and signatures.
3. The statements of person(s), who have witnessed the offence of substance and alcohol abuse must be recorded in detail.
4. The committee shall also collect other evidence regarding the offence and record the statements of all members, connected with the offence.
Step 5: Enquiry Report Submission – Disciplinary Review Committee 1. Dean/Associate Dean/faculty member will recommend appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the policy and severity of the incident.
2. Head - Office of student Affairs will submit a comprehensive report to the Pro Vice Chancellor including the supporting documents and recommendation of the appropriate disciplinary action.

Guidelines for university committee regarding disciplinary action-

If any student(s) is found to be involved in a substance and alcohol abuse incident, either through proof presented to the committee or by being present during the incident within the room in hostel /academic premises, the following guidelines regarding disciplinary action MUST be followed.

Violation of the Policy	On completion of the suspension period
MUST be suspended from the institute and hostel. Period of suspension will depend on the gravity of the misconduct. Will be for a minimum period of three (3) Days.	Following a three-day suspension arising from an alcohol/substance abuse-related incident, the student MUST meet with the Office of Student Affairs for a follow-up meeting before resuming regular campus activities.
Penalties will be determined based on the severity of the violation, University policies, and applicable laws.	A joint undertaking from the student and parent / guardian MUST be submitted to the Office of Student Affairs.
During the period of suspension, the student shall not be permitted to attend classes or access academic, recreational, or other University facilities, except where specifically authorized by the University. Where the student is residing in university accommodation, the University may permit the student to remain in the residence hall for a limited period, subject to nature of the violation and the conditions determined by the University to facilitate appropriate arrangements for departure, transfer, or return to the home country. The student shall continue to comply with all residence hall rules during this period.	Repeated violations may result in more severe disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion from the University, in accordance with the severity of the offense, University policies, and applicable laws. The concerned student(s) shall be expelled from the institution and hostel.
Parents /guardians will be advised to take their ward to a qualified Counsellor or Psychiatrist for further assessment, counselling, or treatment, where necessary.	Following the period of suspension, the student shall be required to seek guidance and support from the Wellbeing Officer and participate in follow-up sessions, as deemed appropriate. The Wellbeing Officer shall monitor the student's progress and provide appropriate follow-up support. Maintain the report in college records till the completion of the course by the student.
Fines may be imposed as a disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.	Students are required to settle the applicable fine within the stipulated timeframe.

Step 6: Determination and Communication of Action

The Pro Vice Chancellor is the decision-making authority-

1. Review the findings and determine the appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with this policy.
2. Finalize the decision and communicate the approved action to the Head -

Office of Student Affairs for implementation.
The Head - Office of Student Affairs will:
3. Initiate and implement the approved action in accordance with the decision.
4. Communicate the decision to the student(s) concerned through the respective Dean/Associate Dean
5. Inform the Chief Warden (if applicable).

12. AWARENESS ACTIVITIES - MAHE Dubai will:

1. Conduct sessions during the Academic year to educate and sensitize students about the dangers of drugs & alcohol abuse.
2. Organize awareness talks on the impact of external influences on young adults addressing issues beyond substance abuse and promoting informed, responsible decision-making.
3. Role plays, skits, display posters, screen short documentary movies, etc., to educate and sensitize the students on the use and ill effects of drugs, alcohol, and substance use.
4. Conduct regular surprise inspections in the residence halls in coordination with the Chief Warden/Wardens and on campus.

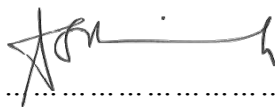
13. CONCLUSION

MAHE Dubai recognizes that the effective implementation of the Substance and Alcohol Abuse Policy requires collective commitment and cooperation of all stakeholders.

This policy will play a vital role in preventing and addressing substance and alcohol abuse, while promoting a safe, responsible, and supportive learning environment for all members of the University community.

MAHE Dubai seeks the active cooperation of students, parents, legal guardians, faculty, and staff in upholding this policy. Through our collective efforts, we can ensure a safe, healthy, and inclusive campus environment that supports learning, personal growth, and the overall well-being of our students.

Policy Effective Date: 1st September 2026 Policy Amendment Date: Reviewed Annually



Policy Approved by

Dr Sudhindra Shamanna

Pro Vice Chancellor

Manipal Academy of High Education, Dubai

ANNEXURE 1: STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CONSENT AT THE TIME OF ADMISSION TO THE RESIDENCE HALL.

I hereby agree with the following terms:

- I confirm that I have carefully and thoroughly read the Substance & Alcohol Abuse Policy. I agree to abide by the said policy.
- I state that I shall refrain from using, being under the influence of, possessing, furnishing, distributing, selling or conspiring to sell or possess, or being in the chain of sale or distribution of psychoactive/mind-altering substances and alcohol within or outside the campus.
- I state that I shall report to the authorities of the institution on any irregular behaviour that I observe in relation to the possession, use, sale and distribution of psychoactive/mind-altering substances and alcohol which may have occurred within the institution or during any activities conducted by any students or institution.
- I state that I shall support and actively participate in any drug prevention education programmes which may be organized by MAHE Dubai.
- I state that I shall co-operate with the authorities of the institution and other statutory authorities in their investigation of any prohibited item related incident of which I may have information.
- I state that I shall have no objection to random searching of my residence room, including my belongings without infringement to my privacy, by authorized personnel of the university.
- I state that if I am suspected of alcohol and/or substance abuse, I will cooperate during the enquiry, which will be conducted by the Disciplinary Review Committee.

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

School: _____

Program: _____

SLCM No: _____

Residence Room No: _____