

RADA

Royal Academy of Dramatic Art

Drugs and Alcohol Policy

This policy will be under review during 2021-2022

Introduction

- 1 RADA has a commitment to enhancing the health and safety and well-being of students and recognises the risks that may be caused by the misuse of alcohol, drugs and other substances.
- 2 The taking of or dealing in 'recreational' or illegal drugs and substances is forbidden on RADA premises, as is being under the influence of non-prescribed drugs.
- 3 Consumption of alcohol or being under the influence of alcohol is forbidden during the teaching day, including when this extends into the evening.
- 4 RADA in no way condones the misuse of drugs or alcohol, and will balance disciplinary action with appropriate support for students who misuse them.
- 5 The policy aims to facilitate the early identification of such problems and to encourage students to seek advice, help and assistance voluntarily before their studies are adversely affected. RADA will achieve these goals through educational, counselling and disciplinary approaches. Staff will provide guidance as to where professional assistance is available.
- 6 RADA recognises that alcohol and drugs will play a part in the lives of some people and will be sympathetic to problems arising from misuse of these substances whilst not condoning such misuse.

The Legal Context

- 7 The law regulating dangerous and otherwise harmful drugs is the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, which makes it clear that it is an offence for "the management of any premises to knowingly allow the possession, storage, sale, use or misuse of a controlled drug."
- 8 The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 requires RADA to do what is reasonable to protect the health, safety and welfare of staff, students and visitors. Drug and alcohol misuse can have an impact on the health and safety of an individual and also for others, for example students in shared accommodation or staff having to handle illegal substances and drug related items.

- 9 RADA has a responsibility to uphold the law. Students who contravene the legislation outlined above, may be subject to disciplinary action by the institution and this may include reporting incidents to the Police.

Management

- 10 Where there is physical evidence of illegal substances having been used on RADA premises, RADA Senior Leadership will remove the evidence for safekeeping. RADA has a legal obligation to report all such cases to the Police and to hand over any evidence. If such evidence has been obtained following a Student Night, RADA may choose to suspend Student Nights.
- 11 The RADA Student Code of Conduct expects students to behave in a way which contributes positively to the atmosphere of the Academy, fosters good working relationships with other students and staff, and meets professional standards expected in the workplace. The misuse of alcohol and drugs directly contravenes the Student Code of Conduct.
- 12 A student must not drink alcohol during working hours or present themselves for training or work having imbibed alcohol.
- 13 Likewise, a student must not be under the influence of drugs or other stimulants during working hours. Students taking prescription drugs, where they may affect the use of machinery or working at height, must inform their supervisors and/or seek further information.
- 14 The Student Code of Conduct applies whether a student is on RADA premises or elsewhere, such as a work placement or tour. If a student behaves in a way that contravenes the Student Code of Conduct, then this constitutes misconduct. It is RADA's policy to deal with minor offences of misconduct in an informal way, but it should be noted that a deliberate, repeated or serious case of misconduct may be dealt with under the terms of RADA's disciplinary policy, which in the most serious cases can lead to suspension or withdrawal from the course. RADA also has a Fitness to Train policy which can be used to address situations where students are in breach of the Code of Conduct but it is not necessarily appropriate to take disciplinary action. These two policies can be used in conjunction with one another.
- 15 RADA enables students to hold social events on the premises, (beyond the working day) However, excessive use of alcohol, the use of recreational drugs or abusive behaviour towards staff or other students still constitutes misconduct and will not be tolerated and may be subject to disciplinary action.
- 16 Being under the influence of alcohol or non-medicinal drugs during working hours at RADA constitutes a danger to yourself, to other students, staff and to the reputation of the Academy.

Help and Advice

- 17 RADA regards an individual's dependency on either drugs or alcohol as a health problem. If a student reports the matter to their Course Director/Leader and agrees a programme of rehabilitation then RADA may allow reasonable absences for advice and/or treatment, providing the student keeps RADA informed of their progress and it is clear that they are attempting to resolve any difficulties they may have. Students must provide confirmation from RADA's counselling service, their GP or an external agency to confirm their attendance and progress. There will be no unnecessary disclosure of information and confidentiality will be respected.
- 18 For those wishing to discuss problems related to the use of drugs or alcohol and to seek further independent advice, they should speak to Tracy Keating, Head of Counselling and Wellbeing in the first instance.
- 19 If a student believes that someone has difficulty controlling their use of alcohol or drugs they should encourage them to seek support. If there is concern that a student is a danger to themselves or others it is recommended that a senior member of staff, usually the Director of Actor Training, Director of Technical Training Registrar, be informed.
- 20 Helpful contacts
 - www.drinkaware.co.uk
 - Talk to Frank : <https://www.talktofrank.com/>
 - www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk has a meeting specifically for young people in London.
- 21 Staff will not provide direct advice on substance misuse but will provide guidance as to where professional assistance is available.

Education

- 22 RADA will endeavour to increase awareness and understanding of drug and alcohol related issues in a number of ways:
 - providing publicity material to raise student awareness eg posters and leaflets
 - training relevant staff
 - inviting a Police Liaison Officer and/or a representative from appropriate drugs and alcohol support agencies point onto the premises to give talks as part of Welcome Week and student development events.

Conclusion

- 23 RADA has responsibilities to its students and staff and recognises the importance of providing a safe place to work and study
- 24 RADA will ensure that appropriate support and advice is available to students but will also take disciplinary action, where illegal activities are taking place and particularly when they endanger the individual student or other members of the Academy

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