

SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

1. The United World College movement is not exempt from the current global reality of drug abuse or the drug market which plagues communities and targets people, especially young people. Drugs, alcohol and tobacco threaten individuals and our community. Our actions can create a positive context so that students develop their understanding and become personally and socially aware and responsible, protecting themselves and others from risk, preventing the acquisition of a habit which can affect or shorten lives. This policy is designed to ensure a safe and healthy 'home' environment for all members of the community. The consequences for contravention will be guided in the first instance by legal requirements and thereafter by educational considerations, safeguarding the interests of individuals and the community.
2. UWC schools and colleges seek to make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and sustainable future. All UWC's share a common expectation that each campus is free of drugs, alcohol and tobacco and therefore free of the social pressure to participate. The presence of these risks the health and well-being of individual members of the community and institutional inaction or negligence is a dereliction of the responsibility of all members of our community, from the Board of Governors to teachers, students and staff.
3. MUWCI is an alcohol, smoke and drug free campus. All members of the college community agree to abide by the laws of state of Maharashtra and the UWC Code of Conduct.

Detailed Policies

Drugs: The use of drugs is incompatible with the ethos of the college. The manufacture, produce, use, possession, sale, advertisement, promotion, or distribution of non-medicinal mood altering chemicals or herbs such as (but not limited to) stimulants, suppressants, marijuana, hashish, cocaine, LSD, amphetamines, barbiturates, hallucinogenic drugs or other narcotic substances or drug paraphernalia on college grounds, trips, or at any college-sponsored activities or while representing the college and at any time is prohibited. Any member of the community involved with illegal drugs in any way will be required to leave the college.

Prescription Medication: The transfer of legal prescription medicines between or among students, or their use by students other than those for whom they have been prescribed, is prohibited. Any member of the college community who violates this policy can expect to be suspended or expelled. The college reserves the right to conduct random and ad hoc screening and detection programs for any member of the community. See "testing" below.

Alcohol: The use, possession, sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages on college grounds (except that which is legal in private faculty / staff campus accommodation) on trips, or at any college-sponsored activities is prohibited. The law in Maharashtra does not permit the consumption of alcohol by persons under the age of 25 years, with an exception to consumption of beer by persons above the age of 21 years (on or off campus). The college reserves the right to conduct random and ad hoc screening and detection programs for any member of the community. See “testing” below.

Smoking: MUWCI is a tobacco-free campus. Sale, advertisement, promotion, distribution and use of any tobacco products by students, employees or visitors on college grounds (except that which is legal in private faculty / staff and guest house accommodation), trips, or at any college-sponsored activities is prohibited.

Collusion: A study of laws around the world indicates different ways of treating those who are implicated by collusion. Members of the community (faculty, students, employees, visitors) in the presence of those who violate the above policies (e.g. being in the same room as someone drinking or smoking) will be treated as though they have been consuming, with circumstances being given consideration.

Consumption off Campus: On return to campus any member of the community believed to have broken the laws of the State of Maharashtra, the UWC Code of Conduct or any other applicable law may be asked to attend the medical centre for testing.

Testing: A test may be requested where there is suspicion or at random as a preventative measure. Failure to attend or to provide a specimen will be considered as evidence of consumption and the most serious consequences will be considered.

Support and Intervention Policy

1. Students are informed of the laws and regulations during the orientation process and are advised of the local risks and concerns with respect to alcohol, drugs and smoking. Students must know that drugs of all kinds are readily available locally and there are dealers who specifically target tourists and young people. They are advised how to handle approaches and not to display obvious wealth which also makes them vulnerable to robbery. Students must be made aware that personal safety is an issue and all students should follow the school’s advice at all times to avoid becoming a victim.
2. The college has set up an Anti-Drug committee which will educate the students about the ill effects of drugs from time to time. The students are required to cooperate with the efforts of the Committee to curb in every manner possible any use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco products.
3. The College provides further support and education through the health and wellness program which includes a series of workshops on drugs, alcohol and smoking. Students are encouraged to talk about their perceptions and concerns with their Advisors, Wada Parents, College Counsellors and Peer Counsellors, who are trained to deal with student concerns.

4. The College reserves the right to ask security personnel to check the belongings and vehicles of any members of the community or visitors entering or leaving the premises. Trained security personnel may request a body search and members of the community are requested to comply with their requests.

Communication of Breaches of the UWC Code of Conduct to National Committees, Authorities and Parents.

The policy of MUWCI in all instances of a breach of the UWC Code of Conduct is to inform the National Committee and any drugs related information to the Narcotics Control Bureau and the Police providing information about the situation. The Parents of the students who have committed any breach will also be informed. However, given linguistic or cultural variance, the National Committee may be best placed to determine communication with parents or sponsors. The Head of College will determine the course of action to be followed and will, where considered necessary, discuss this with the National Committee. The College shall also seek help from the Narcotics Bureau or the Anti-Drug Committee to determine the course of action to be followed upon a breach.

Voluntary Risk Aversion – At Risk Register (ARR)

1. Taking best practice from around the world and as part of an agreed preventative policy, MUWCI encourages and supports individuals to be honest and share their concerns by allowing them to declare themselves to be “at-risk”, from a specific substance. This policy is called a “Safe Haven”.
2. In such cases an individual will not be judged to have broken any law or code of conduct but they will receive a formal (non-pejorative) warning and be placed on the “At-Risk Register” (ARR). If an individual reports and/or seeks help because he/she is ill, and /or is taken to the medical centre, the individual will be placed on the ARR. In such cases no formal enquiry will be conducted and there will be no disciplinary process, however the individual will be placed on the ARR. Those who have their names on the register will not have their names given to anyone except those who provide support through counseling or medical services. This includes the Head of College. Those on the register will not have any disciplinary record. Individuals on the “At-Risk Register” will be offered support and counseling and be required to undergo regular and ad hoc screening thereafter. If the individual thereafter transgresses then he/she will automatically be referred to the community council with a view to suspension or expulsion, as though a previous contravention had been recorded.
3. The opportunity to be included on the ARR will not apply if the individual is caught in possession or using an illegal substance or if they supplied illegal substances to other

members of the community. The purpose of this is to give any member of the community the possibility of getting help. An individual may request to be included in the at risk programme. This provides counselling and regular tests and an opportunity to refuse any social pressure, which we recognize may exist on and off campus. This is not to be confused with being caught. In this situation immediate disciplinary consequences can be expected.

4. Any student diagnosed with a serious 'addiction' problem can be made to return home. The College is limited in the level of effective and suitable support it can offer.
5. Any member of the community who breaches these rules breaches the trust placed in them and thereby threatens the college community in a very serious way. The consequences will therefore be serious. A Safe Haven exists for students. It is the only way in which a mistake or error of judgement may be admitted by a student so the extreme consequence of expulsion may be avoided and an important educational lesson for life learned. The Safe Haven does not apply to adult members of the college community.