

**SOAS Smoking and Vaping Policy**

# Introduction

Smoking is a major cause of illness and early death. Despite continued declines in smoking rates, it remains the leading cause of preventable illness and premature death in England In 2206 The UK Government took active measures to deter people from smoking and decrease impacts from passive smoking, through introduction of new legislation, the Health Act.

Legislation under the Health Act 2006 prohibits smoking in enclosed public places, workplaces, on public transport and in vehicles used for work.

This policy has been developed to protect all employees, students, contractors, visitors and others from exposure to second-hand smoke and irritants and to assist compliance with

the Health Act 2006.Exposure to second hand smoke increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other serious illnesses.

The benefits through implementation of this policy include reduced health and safety risks relating to fire and waste and that it aims to help reduce risks to staff, students and others, of contracting illnesses associated with smoking. And as a responsible employer, supports SOAS to ensure compliance with legislation.

# Scope and Policy

SOAS policy is that all our premises and workplaces must be maintained smoke free, and that all employees, students and others have a right to work and study in a smoke free environment. All employees, consultants, contractors, students, members and visitors are required to comply with this policy.

This policy came into effect on Sunday, 1st July 2007. Since that date smoking has been prohibited in all enclosed and substantially enclosed premises in the workplace.

# Implementation

Overall responsibility for policy implementation and review rests with The Director of SOAS. All staff and students are obliged to adhere to, and support the implementation of the policy. All existing employees, consultants and contractors shall be informed of the policy. A copy of this policy will be made available on the MySOAS internet pages.

Appropriate ‘no-smoking’ signs will be clearly displayed at the entrances to and within the premises.

1. **E-Cigarettes / Vaping**

E-cigarette use (nicotine and non nicotine) is known as vaping. While debate continues about their absolute level of safety, and whilst SOAS recognises the benefits of E-cigarettes as an aid in quitting smoking, we do not allow the use of them on SOAS premises.

Staff, Students or Visitors wishing to use E-cigarettes or vaping equipment are respectfully asked to do so outside of the premises, as smokers of traditional cigarettes are required to.

# Non – Compliance

Disciplinary action may be taken in accordance with the appropriate Disciplinary Procedure if a member of staff or student does not comply with the School’s Smoking Policy.

1. **Review**

This policy will be reviewed by the health and safety manager when dictated by legislation or internal procedure change.

# Further Information

# Help to stop smoking:

There are a range of services to assist smokers who wish to give up: NHS

The free Smokefree National Helpline on 0300 123 1044

NHS Smoke free find your local stop smoking services: <http://www.nhs.uk/smokefree/help-and-advice/local-support-services-helplines>

NHS live well quit well: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/quit-smoking/nhs-stop-smoking-services-help-you-quit/>

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