

Student Council Motion

SC-8.4 Smoke-free campus

What issue is your proposal going to address?

The University of Hertfordshire can become a smoke-free campus. Many universities around the world have successfully implemented a smoke-free campus, either banning smoking entirely within the campus, or providing one or two designated areas for smoking, with the rest of the campus smoke free. Passive smoking from cigarette smoke entering university buildings, halls of residences, smokers walking and smoking on campus along pathways, near bus stops on campus, etc is a health nuisance to all students and is incompatible with a positive work and study environment. Current 10m rule in place is inadequate, outdated and overall the university reputation suffers from the environment it is providing in this respect.

Why this is important to University of Hertfordshire Students?

As a student community, health and well-being of students and staff is paramount. Passive smoking and an environment where nicotine addiction is normalized has a negative impact physically, environmentally, financially (litter and maintenance) and socially. The University can still provide one or two designated smoking benches in an appropriate location if need be, and improve the overall environment greatly for all students.

What action would you like the Students' Union to take?

- Set a date when the campus will become smoke-free and publicize this to all students. Outline the reasons why this is happening for the overall improvement of the University environment.
- Design new signage to be put at all building entrances and bus stops indicating that the campus is now smoke-free. Supporting announcements can be done in a sensitive manner, eg. Breath easy, UH is now smoke-free.
- Designate a smoking area if necessary on each campus. Note: This should be no bigger than a few benches and small garden bed.