

NATIONAL STUDENT, DRUG AND ALCOHOL CONFERENCE 2025



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DRUG AND ALCOHOL
CONFERENCE
2025

University of Northampton, 1st April 2025

09:30 - 10:00	Registration opens	
10:00 - 10:10	Welcome Address <i>Becky Bradshaw, University of Northampton</i>	
10:10 - 11:00	Engaging Students: Alcohol, Drugs and Student Perspectives <i>Chair: Abhishek Sharma, University of Northampton Student & Drink Rethink Ambassador</i> <i>Speakers: Neil Davies, Cardiff Metropolitan University. Rosa Mumford-Turner, UWE SU. Izzy Watkins, Student Minds. Rob Ralphs, Manchester Metropolitan University.</i> This panel on Engaging Students looks to highlight some examples of how universities and students' unions have worked to ensure student voices are shaping the change they deliver on campus.	
	Workshop A	Workshop B
11:10-12:00	Peer Led Initiatives in Reducing Harm <i>Fiona Murray, SOS-UK</i> <i>Tejas Singh, Drink Rethink Ambassador</i> <i>Benedita Saramento, Drink Rethink Ambassador</i> This workshop will explore the effectiveness of peer-led initiatives in engaging students in conversations about their alcohol use, aiming to reduce alcohol-related harm. Attendees will hear firsthand from students who have participated in a peer-led behavioural change project and gain insights into integrating harm reduction strategies within existing peer support networks at their institution.	Working Across Organisations <i>Ellie Lewis, Aberystwyth University</i> <i>Adam Whitehouse, Dyfed Drug and Alcohol Service</i> <i>Becky Williams-White, University of Leeds</i> <i>Amy Merchant, Leeds University Union</i> Hear from organisations working in partnership in Aberystwyth and Leeds about how they built relationships and created change on campus for students. Attendees will learn how these partnerships have established sustainable working relationships and shared priorities. By the end of the session, you'll leave with practical ideas on collaboration between universities, students' unions, and local drug and alcohol treatment services.
12:00 - 12:45	Lunch (with refreshments) and networking break Q&A session about Drug and Alcohol Impact	



12:45 - 1:10	Awards Ceremony Join us to celebrate universities and students' unions who have successfully received Drug & Alcohol Impact Accreditation in the last year.	
1:10 - 1:25	City-Wide Pilot Announcement John De Pury, Health/Education Advisor	
1:25 - 2	A Journey to Harm Reduction with Manchester Metropolitan University <i>Mishal Saeed, Manchester Metropolitan University</i> <i>Hannah Snape, Manchester Metropolitan University Students' Union</i> Join them in discussing their journey towards harm reduction, sharing their experiences, challenges and successes in implementing harm reduction practices on campus.	
2:05-2:55	Workshop C Building an Inclusive and Sober Curious Campus <i>Chris Evans, Cardiff Metropolitan University</i> <i>Josh Kelly, Club Soda</i> Sober curiosity is growing in popularity amongst the student population, with universities and students' unions experiencing an increased interest in non-alcohol spaces and activities. This session will explore the concept of sober curiosity, and how universities and external organisations can build inclusive and non-alcohol focused spaces.	Workshop D Ketamine Use in the Student Population <i>Dr Karenza Moore, Newcastle University</i> Ketamine is one of the top three drugs reported to be used by students, with 4% of students noting weekly use (SOS-UK, 2023-34). Learn more about current research into Ketamine use in students, including the Safer Partying Research Project which has been used to build an understanding of student ketamine use to inform resources.
14:55 - 15:10	Break	
15:10 - 16:15	Making Connections: Alcohol, Drugs and Everything Else <i>Chair: Sunday Blake, Policy Exchange</i> <i>Speakers: Fiona Spargo-Mabbs OBE, Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation. Yves Suzanne, Good Night Out. Becky Limb, 1625 Outreach.</i> The Making Connections panel brings together experts from a range of fields to discuss how work on alcohol and drugs relates back to three of the key areas of work being done on campus at the moment; neurodiversity, sexual violence and mental health.	
16:15 - 16:30	Closing Address <i>Roger Weston, University of Northampton Students' Union</i>	
16:30	End of Conference	

Content and timings may be subject to change.



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