



A  
Scottish  
student  
guide to

# Alcohol Drugs & Studying

For all school and  
college students

Academic Year 2022/23

# Academics and addiction



## Alcohol, Drugs and Studying

As you enter adulthood, you experience many freedoms that you didn't have as a younger child. However, that freedom can sometimes lead to dangerous paths. For students, this can impact your education and your future in significant ways. If you're a student, it's essential to have the knowledge you need to make wise decisions regarding alcohol and drugs.

Whether you've still got a few years left at school, off to university soon, going to college, an apprenticeship or starting work, this guide can help give you information to help keep you safe.

### Why Do Students Use Alcohol and Drugs?

Drugs and alcohol are common in today's environment and as you get older, you will become The first taste of freedom gives many students a chance to experiment.

You may have heard of, "just say no," but what other conversations have you had with your parents and teachers about drug awareness? While being told not to do drugs and the potential consequences of choosing to is important, it's not enough. That's why many schools are looking at broader approaches that don't just preach abstinence from alcohol and drugs or use scare tactics.

As a student, it's vital that you understand the potential negative consequences of using alcohol and drugs. However, it's also important that you understand the other factors, like why people choose to use.

**27 per cent of students in the UK believe that taking drugs is just a part of university culture.**

# Alcohol and drug use

Different drugs might have slightly different factors at play, which we'll talk about later, but when it comes to students, there are some reasons that UK students have identified as the reasons they choose to use.

## Peer Pressure

Around 19 per cent of students report using drugs to help enhance social interactions.

The university setting can be your first time truly being away from home. This is a time of life where you are building a new support system of friends, and there is a strong desire to fit in.

With that, there comes a built-in opportunity for peer pressure. The people around you might not intend to pressure you into decisions; however, that strong desire to fit in can make you more likely to fall prey to even subtle peer pressure. Around 9 per cent of students report using drugs to help them fit in with the people they're with.

In addition, five per cent of students report that they were pressured to do so by family or other people around them.

## Recreation

Around 57 per cent of students in the UK identify their reason for using drugs as recreation. When you enter university, to some degree, part of the culture is parties.

At these parties, you will see alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs. However, students might choose to use recreationally, even outside parties. For example, you could choose to go to a pub and drink with friends throughout the week.



**57 per cent of students in the UK identify cited recreation as their reason for drug use.**



# Alcohol and drug use

## Coping With Stress

Between getting your bearings as a young adult and learning to balance your studies and interpersonal relationships, this part of your life comes with built-in stressors. Add on the stressors of the pandemic and how that has impacted your education, and the stress level rises.

Around 21 per cent of students identify that they use drugs as a way to cope with stress.

## Boredom

Sometimes, you don't need a reason. The opportunity is there, and you're bored, so you choose to use a substance. About 21 per cent of students identified boredom as their reason.

## Escape

Do you ever just want to escape your current reality? You're not alone, sometimes, we all need a break, and 18 per cent of students use drugs to provide that escape.

## Self-Medicating

Around 70 to 75 per cent of people with a mental health condition don't seek help. How are students with mental health conditions dealing with it if they don't seek professional help? Around 13 per cent of students identify that they choose to use drugs to self-medicate for a mental health condition.

## Spiritual Experience

Certain drugs, like the traditional hallucinogenic drink ayahuasca, are used as part of a spiritual experience. Whether it's a spiritual experience practised by your culture, or you've simply heard that a particular drug can impart wisdom and insight.

Around 12 per cent of students identified spiritual experience as their reason for using drugs.





# Alcohol and drug use

**Around 21% (one-fifth) of adults in the UK aged 16 - 24 years old took drugs in the year ending 2020.**

## **Confidence**

There is a reason alcohol gets the moniker of "liquid courage," it helps lower your inhibitions, and you're willing to do things you would not have done before. This can also be said of many drugs. Because of this, around seven per cent of students use alcohol and drugs for confidence.

## **Coping With Life Events**

How do you cope with separation or loss? During your time as a young adult, you will enter new relationships, and old relationships might end. It's essential to have the skills to cope with this and the ability to cope with other challenging life circumstances. Around six per cent of college students report using drugs to help them cope with circumstances.

## **Sexual Enhancement**

Young adults are not the only ones utilising drugs and alcohol to help enhance their sexual life. However, around five per cent report that this is their reason for using.

## **Academics or Athletics**

Balancing classes, athletics, and social life is difficult for anyone. As a university student, you're just beginning to learn how to do that, and you might not always be successful.

Maybe, you stayed out too late with friends, and you're stressing over a big paper. Or, perhaps you're worrying that if you're not at the top of your game athletically, you will lose a scholarship.

Around three per cent of students report using drugs to perform better academically. In comparison, one per cent of students report using drugs to perform better athletically.



# Using Consequences

## Consequences Of Drugs & Alcohol

Whatever the reason is that you choose to use drugs or alcohol, there are consequences that come into play. Some of these consequences are short-term, but others are more long-term. Every individual substance will have its own consequences, but they all share some common points.

### Short-Term Consequences

Short-term consequences can still have a significant impact on you. Consequences that are seen as short-term can change the course of your life.

#### Did you know..

**467,000  
people aged  
between  
16 - 24 took  
class A drugs in  
the year 2020.**

### Educational Consequences

While you might choose to use drugs to help your academic performance, in reality, substances are more likely to decrease your performance. You might start spending less time studying and start missing classes.

This can lead to you getting behind on your schoolwork and decreased marks. Decreased performance in your classes can cause you to lose scholarships and get put on academic probation. You might also end up dropping out if you're unable to manage your substance abuse and coursework.

If your school has policies about drug use, you could get expelled.

### Risky or Dangerous Behaviours

Using alcohol and drugs can lead to you engaging in behaviours that are risky and dangerous. For example, driving under the influence or getting into fights. Drug use can also lead to risky sexual behaviours that can cause pregnancies and STIs.

# Using Consequences

## Social Consequences

While you might start using drugs for social reasons, they can quickly have consequences on your social life. You might lose friends and struggle in relationships with your family members because of your drug use.

## Financial Consequences

Drugs also come with financial consequences; when you're addicted, you'll do anything and everything to get your next high. This might mean instead of paying rent; you pay for drugs or alcohol.

If you have a job to help earn money while in college, you could lose it. In addition, the money you're paying for your education will go to waste if you're not going to classes and learning.

You ultimately might need to pay for and retake the same classes later in your life.

## Health Problems

Using drugs and alcohol can cause short-term and long-term consequences to your health. Some of the short-term health problems you can experience include hangovers, nausea, and injury.

## Class A Drugs include:

**powder cocaine, crack cocaine, ecstasy, LSD, magic mushrooms, heroin, methadone, methamphetamine.**





# Using Consequences

## Long-Term Consequences

Some of the short-term consequences you experience can quickly become long-term consequences. For example, if you engage in risky sexual behaviours, you might develop an STI like HIV that is not curable.

However, even if that doesn't happen, substance abuse comes with a risk of long-term consequences.

### Health Problems

The health problems that you are at risk for are in part dependent on the substances you use. However, you might see your immune system impacted, putting you at a higher risk for infectious diseases. For example, individuals with substance abuse problems are at an increased risk when it comes to COVID-19.

You're also at an increased risk of overdose or death, cancer, lung disease, heart disease, etc.

### Mental Health Concerns

Substance abuse can also cause a range of mental health concerns and worsen any existing mental health problems you might have. You could experience depression, anxiety, decreased cognitive performance, suicidal ideation, etc.

### Legal Consequences

If you're using illegal or controlled drugs in the UK or engaging in risky behaviours that are illegal, you might end up with legal consequences. Legal consequences can result in prison time and fines and ultimately end up following you for the rest of your life.

If you are arrested for possessing Class A drugs in the UK, you could get up to seven years in prison, an unlimited fine, or both. For a Class B drug, you can get up to five years in prison, an unlimited fine, or both.

For a Class C drug, you can get up to two years in prison, an unlimited fine, or both. The only exception for Class C drugs is anabolic steroids because it's not an offence to have them for personal use. If you're supplying or producing drugs, the penalties are even harsher, and you can end up in prison for life for some of the classes of drugs.



# Alcohol

**Around 70 to 75 per cent of people with a mental health condition don't seek help.**

## Alcohol and studying

According to student alcohol statistics in the UK, around 79 per cent of students believe that drinking and getting drunk is just a part of the university experience. In addition, 20 per cent of students report getting drunk once a week on purpose.

If you're wondering how much college students spend on alcohol, you might not be surprised to find out that it depends in part on the university or college that you attend. One study found that students at Durham spend the most, which is surprising considering this area is known for cheap pints.

The study stated that students in Durham are spending 50 per cent more per month than the average UK student. There is some truth to the fact that drinking is part of university culture; however, there is a point where it crosses over from social drinking to addiction or harmful.

## What's the Harm in Getting Wasted for One Party?

Even if you're not struggling with addiction, drinking can quickly become dangerous. If you're playing student drinking games like beer pong, you might not realise how much alcohol you are consuming. This can lead to binge drinking.

## Binge Drinking

The definition of binge drinking varies a bit depending on your sex. For men, five or more drinks on a single occasion is defined as bingeing. For women, four or more drinks constitutes bingeing. Even if you're not playing drinking games, it's very easy to binge drink in social settings where you're not monitoring how much you're drinking. Drinking alcohol in excess can lead to alcohol poisoning, violent behaviour, long-term chronic health issues, and unintended injuries.



# Alcohol



## How Much Is Too Much?

How much can you drink before it becomes unsafe? Experts state that the recommended alcohol intake is that women should have one drink or less per day, and men should have two drinks or less per day.

Students drinking alcohol might be unlikely to stick to those numbers. However, if you are trying to reduce consequences, consider the recommended alcohol units per week. You shouldn't be drinking more than 14 units per week, and if you are regularly drinking that much, you should spread your drinking out over several days.

## How Do You Know A Student Has Had Too Much to Drink?

Student drinking habits might make it challenging to stick to the recommended amount of alcohol. However, because the effects of alcohol can quickly become dangerous, it's important to know when a friend might have had too much to drink. At this point, it's important to cut them off from drinking alcohol.

### Speech

Is your friend's speech slurred? Or are they uncontrollably laughing or repeating themselves over and over? That's a clear sign it's time to stop drinking.

### Physical

There are also physical signs it's time to stop drinking. These signs can include lack of balance, loss of coordination, and a flushed face and bright, teary eyes.

They might also be struggling with fine motor control. For example, you might not be able to write or shake hands.

### Cognitive Impairment

If you notice that your friend is having problems regulating their emotions, it's time to cut them off. This can look like anger or aggression over small things or sobbing for no reason.

Other cognitive signs include confusion, inability to focus and memory problems.

### Behavioural

Is your friend doing things they would typically never do? Alcohol can lower your inhibitions, and it's essential to watch out for this. You can ultimately do something that can impact the rest of your life if you find yourself at this point.

# Drinking Safely



## Student Tips for Drinking Safely

There are some things you can do when drinking alcohol to create a safer experience. Just remember, drinking comes with an inherent risk, even if you do take steps to increase your safety.

### Watch Your Drink

Don't let your drink out of your sight. Watch when it is poured or mixed and make sure you're not taking a drink from someone else. This helps you make sure that your drink doesn't get spiked. If you're at a party with a punch bowl, be cautious about that punch bowl because you don't know if someone has spiked it.

### Have a Designated Driver

How do you plan to get home? Make sure you have someone going with you who won't be drinking. In addition, if you don't have someone who can be a designated driver, plan to take an Uber.

### Don't Drink Alone

Whether you're going to a party or just out to relax, don't drink alone. A friend can help make sure you don't overdo it and recognise signs that you've had too much.

### Eat Before Drinking Alcohol

When there's nothing in your stomach, the alcohol you drink will have a more significant impact. Ensure that you eat before you drink and have small snacks throughout the evening.

### Don't Chug

Chugging alcohol through a nozzle makes it quite challenging to monitor how much you're drinking. This is one way that you can quickly get to the place where your alcohol intake quickly passes a level that's safe.

**2,050 people  
were killed  
or seriously  
injured in the  
UK due to drink  
driving in 2019.**



# Drinking Safely

## **Drink Water**

Alcohol dehydrates you quickly, and drinking water between your rounds can help reduce the effects of alcohol. It will also fill you up some and reduce the temptation to drink as much.

## **One Unit per Drink per Hour**

If you're worried about not knowing your limit and how much is too much, play it safe. Keep to one unit of alcohol per hour. However, do your best to know your limits before going to a big party where you will be tempted to drink too much.

## **Be Safe**

Alcohol lowers your inhibitions, so you will do things you wouldn't normally do. If you're drinking, don't engage in risky behaviours.

This can include driving, diving into pools, jumping off roofs, or other activities. Doing so will increase your risk of injury or death.

## **Don't Mix Drugs and Alcohol**

When it comes to alcohol and drugs, we're not just talking about illegal drugs. Certain prescription drugs can have dangerous interactions with alcohol as well.

You should discuss with your doctor how alcohol and any medications you take might impact you. However, if you're drinking and someone offers you party drugs, say no.



# Alcohol

**75% of college students drink alcohol**

**60% report drinking within the past month**

**38% report having been drunk within the last month.**

## When Alcohol Becomes a Problem

When does drinking alcohol turn into a problem or alcoholism? Sure there's a risk of becoming an alcoholic when you drink, but where's the line?

There are a few ways you can tell that you or a friend might have a problem.

### Academic Signs

Are you regularly missing classes because you're too hungover to get out of bed? Or maybe, your grades are dropping because you are not going to class and you're drinking instead of studying.

If this sounds like you, it's possible that your drinking has become a problem.

### Cognitive and Emotional

If you're drinking to the point that you blackout and don't remember what happened the previous evening, you're drinking too much. You might also experience a change in your sleeping patterns and uncharacteristic mood swings where you go from high to low in minutes.

### Social Behaviour

Are you getting in trouble with your school? Or the law? These are signs that you need help.

In addition, losing friends to make new ones who encourage you to drink is another sign.

### Dependence

If you wake up and you feel shaky and need more alcohol to calm you, it's likely your body is developing a dependence. You might also switch from alcohol to using heavier substances if you feel that alcohol is no longer giving you the relief you need. These are clear signs that it's time to reach out and get help.





# Drugs

## Drugs Commonly Used by Students

Whether you're using illegal drugs in the UK or abusing prescriptions, drug use comes with serious consequences. There are some drugs that are commonly abused by college students in the UK, and each comes with different potential consequences.

### Crack Cocaine

Crack cocaine goes by several names. You might hear it referenced as:

- Rock
- Base
- Candy
- Kryptonite
- Cookies
- Sleet
- Hard
- Crack

The name crack is because it makes a popping or crackling noise when it gets heated. This drug gets made by mixing ammonia or baking soda into the powder form of cocaine.

While crack is commonly vaporised through a glass pipe or snorted, injecting cocaine is another method of taking it.

### Effects of Crack Cocaine

When using crack, the drug can cause euphoria, tension, confidence, and hyperactivity. This drug is very potent, and because of that, even an individual using it for the first time is at a high risk of a fatal overdose.

### Crack Cocaine Addiction

This drug is even more addictive than regular cocaine, and addiction forms quickly. For some, it takes only using it one time. The high experienced can cause a lot of pleasure, but it's short. To maintain the high, users are tempted to take more of the drug. Crack causes your body to create excess levels of dopamine.

Dopamine induces happiness and helps create the high that comes with this drug. If you're using this drug habitually, your body doesn't produce as much dopamine naturally anymore, and to feel happy; you will take more of the drug.

This eventually leads to addiction and you needing crack just to feel normal.



# Common Drugs

## **Quitting Crack Cocaine**

Crack can have very unpleasant withdrawal symptoms that make it difficult to quit. Some of these symptoms are acute, while others are more prolonged.

### ***Acute symptoms can include:***

- Exhaustion
- Anxiety
- Unpleasant dreams
- Irritability
- Mood changes
- Difficulty concentrating

### ***Protracted symptoms can include:***

- Anxiety
- Agitation
- Shaking
- Depression
- Cravings
- Lack of motivation
- Inability to feel pleasure
- Difficulty sleeping
- Anger
- Emotional outbursts

## **Adderall**

Adderall in the UK is a Class B drug. While it is legal with a prescription, without one, it can have hefty legal consequences. This is a drug commonly abused by college students who believe it will help enhance their academic performance.

Adderall increases the amount of dopamine and norepinephrine in your central nervous system. This impacts how your brain responds to various events and can help you pay better attention, and can impact the speed at which your brain responds to external stimuli.

Because Adderall does increase dopamine levels, it can create a rewarding effect.

## **Adderall Addiction**

Because of how Adderall impacts the chemicals in your brain, it's very addictive. When you become addicted, your brain will need the drug to stimulate alertness and productivity.



# Common Drugs

Without it, you will likely feel mentally foggy and tired.

## ***Other symptoms of addiction include:***

- Unable to complete work without Adderall
- Tolerance
- Unable to cut down even if you want to
- Taking Adderall even though you know the harm being caused
- Inability to feel alert without it
- Neglecting other activities to use
- Spending a lot of time and money to get, use, and recover from Adderall
- Withdrawal symptoms

## **Quitting Adderall**

If you've been using Adderall, you can experience symptoms of withdrawal. This drug causes an increase in dopamine in your brain. Because of that, your brain will begin to rely on Adderall and produce less dopamine naturally.

## ***Some of the symptoms of withdrawal that you can experience include:***

- Mood swings
- Tremors
- Headaches
- Appetite changes
- Insomnia
- Fatigue
- Irritability
- Depression
- Suicidal thoughts
- Anxiety
- Seizures
- Muscle aches
- Cravings





# Common Drugs

## Benzos (benzodiazepines)

Benzos or benzodiazepines are drugs that typically get prescribed for anxiety or another medical condition. Some of the drugs that can fall into this category are valium and Xanax. Some of the conversations over recent years have looked at the dangers of street valium as deaths have been on the rise. Even if you have a prescription, if you choose to take it to achieve a high or don't follow directions, it counts as substance abuse. These drugs are depressants and work on your central nervous system. Because these drugs are widely available, they are commonly abused.

### **Benzodiazepine Addiction**

Benzodiazepines (Benzos) are addictive; however, some are highly addictive. For example, abusing your Xanax drug prescription can quickly lead to addiction as this is one of the benzos that are highly addictive.

If you're worried someone in your life is abusing benzos, there are some signs you can be on the lookout for.

#### ***These include:***

- Weakness
- Mood changes
- Blurred vision
- Drowsiness
- Doctor shopping
- Poor judgment or thinking
- Risk-taking behaviours
- Combining benzos with alcohol or other drugs

### ***Quitting Benzos***

Benzos are very dangerous to just stop "cold turkey." It's essential to consult a doctor and go through a medical detox if you've developed a dependency on these drugs.

Some of the withdrawal symptoms you could experience include:

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Panic
- Hallucinations
- Mood swings
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea and vomiting
- Seizures
- Suicidal tendencies



# Common Drugs

## Opioids & Opiates

The terms opioids and opiates often get used interchangeably, but there are differences. Opiate drugs are narcotics that get derived from the opium poppy plant, which is naturally occurring. While opioid drugs are synthetic narcotics that get made from an opiate plant that isn't naturally occurring. While all opiates can get classified as opioids, the opposite is not true. Legal opioids are prescribed to treat pain. All opioids are highly addictive. Some well-known drugs include heroin, fentanyl, and morphine.

### Opioid Addiction

If you've been attempting to stop using opioids and can't, that's a clear sign of addiction. You might also notice that you have built up a tolerance and need more and more to achieve the same effects.

#### ***Some other signs of addiction can include:***

- Physical agitation
- Poor decision making
- Shallow or slow breathing
- Reduced motivation
- Anxiety attacks
- Depression
- Irritability

### Quitting Opioids

Opioids can cause dependence, and they can be difficult to quit due to cravings and withdrawal symptoms. Withdrawal symptoms can also be dangerous, and it's essential to make a plan with your medical provider.

#### ***Some symptoms of opioid withdrawal include:***

- Agitation
- Anxiety
- Muscle aches
- Insomnia
- Sweating
- Abdominal cramping
- Diarrhoea
- Nausea
- Vomiting



# Common Drugs

## Legal Highs

These are psychoactive drugs with various chemical ingredients. Some are illegal, but others are legal. However, you will find that these drugs have effects similar to ecstasy, cannabis, and cocaine. Some will leave you feeling energised, others will cause you to feel more relaxed or euphoric, and others can alter your perception and cause you to hallucinate.

Because these drugs haven't been tested for safety, they are often not sold for human consumption. Some of the effects seen when legal highs get used are paranoia, seizures, coma, and even death. Because of this, they were outlawed in May of 2016 for production, sale, and supply.

## Poppers Drug

Poppers are drugs that come in small bottles. People inhale these drugs from the bottle or from a cloth or cigarette that gets dipped into the liquid. The effects of poppers occur almost immediately but only last for a few minutes. They work by causing an increase of blood flow to your heart. As your heartbeat quickens and blood rushes to your head, you experience a high. Poppers are commonly used to improve sexual experiences.

### **The Dangers of Poppers**

Some side effects experienced by individuals who use poppers include headaches, dizziness, nausea, light-headedness, and a slowed-down sense of time. There have been instances where poppers have caused heart attacks, especially in people who have heart conditions or high blood pressure.

Other fatalities have occurred when users drink the popper versus inhaling it. You can develop a tolerance to poppers so that after a while, they no longer cause a high. While there are no reports of physical dependence or withdrawal symptoms, you can develop a psychological dependence.



# Getting Help

## Signs of Substance Misuse

If you are worried about yourself, a friend or family member and believe there's a problem, there are some common symptoms that can indicate an issue with alcohol or drugs.

### *These symptoms can include:*

- Failing grades
- Skipping classes
- Sleeping during the day
- Unexplained financial difficulties
- Sudden mood swings
- Questionable hygiene and appearance
- Mixing drugs
- Lack of motivation
- Inability to make contact
- Sleep disturbances
- Changing social circles
- Social withdrawal

Substance misuse and addiction problems need dealt with - they always get worse without help. If it is yourself, you mustn't ignore the problem, hoping that it is just a phase. If it is for someone else, they might not know how bad they are - remember, denial accompanies all addiction.

Alcohol Use Disorders are medically recognised and respond well to treatment. However, left untreated, they only ever become progressively worse.

**57 per cent of students in the UK cited recreation as their reason for drug use.**



# Getting Help

**Cannabis continues to be the most common drug used in the last year among 16 to 24 year olds.**

## How To Help Someone

**Approaching someone you love about addiction can be difficult. However, there are some things you can do to help make the process easier.**

### Research

Take the time to learn about addiction and the substance you're worried someone is abusing. This will help you have facts and knowledge on how to address it when you sit down to talk.

### Choose the Right Time

If the person you need to talk to is stressed or under the influence, you're already in a bad place. This is a conversation that can trigger a lot of emotions, and you both need to be well-rested and clear-headed.

### Focus on Results

The approach you take is a significant factor in how your loved one will receive what you have to say. Focus on talking to them about the harm that's being caused and how that harm will continue to get worse. Make sure they know you are approaching them out of love and that you care about them and their well-being.

### Be Prepared for Pushback

Even when you talk to them, they might deny that they have a problem and be defensive. Ultimately, you have to let them come to a point where they do realise they have a problem.

Don't be defensive, and remember, having this conversation might force them to take a step back and look more closely at what they're doing.

### Make a Plan

Don't leave them floundering if they are willing to hear you and are ready to get help. As part of your research, find resources that could fit them.

You can even offer to give them a ride or to go with them and be a support. However, remember, they need to do the work themselves. You can provide resources and support, and then it's up to them.



# Getting Help

## Treatment and Interventions

There are many resources available to help when you're ready. Treatment can take many forms, from inpatient to outpatient. The right treatment should be tailored to you.

### Detox

It's important to discuss with a provider the right steps to take when it comes to detox. Some substances can have dangerous withdrawal symptoms, and you might need medical detox.

### Medication

For some addictions, certain medications can help with detox and staying clean. For example, gabapentin is often used for individuals detoxing from alcohol.

In addition, medication-assisted treatment is an option at many rehabilitation centres that treat opioid abuse.

### Counselling

Counselling is a crucial part of your treatment. In counselling, you can look at the various factors that led to addiction and learn new coping mechanisms.

Counselling can include individual counselling, family counselling, and group therapy.

### Residential Rehab

The most effective treatment for any addiction but not necessarily convenient - especially for students who have a busy academic workload - is residential rehab. As the name suggests,

### Aftercare

When you've gone through detox and treatment, you're not done. Addiction is a lifelong disorder, and you will need support. It's essential to set up an aftercare plan to help you maintain sobriety.



# Useful Resources



## Further Help & Advice

### NHS Addiction Advice

The NHS class addiction as a health problem, and offer advice and guidance on their website:

- [Alcohol >>](#)
- [Drugs >>](#)

### 12-Step Fellowships

[Alcoholics Anonymous](#), [Narcotics Anonymous](#), and [Cocaine Anonymous](#) provide support groups for people in recovery. These groups are not counselling but instead offer a fellowship.

### FRANK

[FRANK](#) offers free and practical advice on drug use for adults and children. They focus on preventing drug use by providing information and tools to help people abstain.

### Drinkaware

[Drinkaware](#) provides information and support to individuals seeking to reduce their drinking. Their goal is to help people in the UK adopt healthy drinking habits.

### Rehab Guide

[Rehab Guide](#) provide advice and guidance on how to overcome alcohol and where to find treatment in your area and further afield including detox, rehab, counselling, medications and support groups.

### SMART Recovery

[SMART Recovery](#) offers a variety of self-help programmes for addiction. These can include alcohol, drugs, gambling, and more.

### MIND

[Mind](#) provide advice and support to empower anyone experiencing a mental health problem, with resources and a helpline.

For free advice for yourself or a friend, speak to your student support advice service or contact a fully confidential telephone counsellor at [Rehab Guide](#) on **02072052845** or visit [www.rehabguide.co.uk](http://www.rehabguide.co.uk).

## A HELPFUL ADDICTION GUIDE FOR ALL COLLEGE AND STUDENTS.

This guide for students was written and published by  
Rehab Guide, a UK-wide free addiction advice service.

Rehab Guide offers confidential advice and guidance on  
all addictions and provides a safe place for anyone to find  
help, including those with a problem and their loved ones.