



Smoke Free Policy

Policy title	Smoke Free Policy
Policy type	Estates and Facilities management
Policy owner	HSE manager
Policy number	Estates and facilities management / 4
Pertinent dates	Drafted on Approved on: 13 April 2025 Revised on:

1. Purpose:

- To safeguard the physical health of students, faculty, staff, and visitors from the harmful effects of direct and secondhand smoke.
- To foster an academic and professional environment conducive to focus, productivity, and personal development.
- To contribute to a more sustainable and clean campus by reducing tobacco-related litter and fire hazards.
- To comply with and exceed national regulations and align with international health and education sector best practices.
- To support individuals who wish to overcome tobacco dependence by providing cessation tools and guidance.

2. Scope:

This Smoke-Free Policy applies to:

- All areas of the university, including but not limited to classrooms, laboratories, libraries, lecture halls, offices, dining areas, student housing, sports facilities, parking lots, walkways, courtyards, green spaces, and outdoor gathering areas.
- All individuals present on campus, including students, academic and administrative staff, maintenance personnel, contractors, vendors, and visitors.
- All modes of transportation owned, operated, or leased by the university.

Smoke Free Policy

Introduction

The British University in Egypt (BUE) acknowledges its vital role in shaping a healthier, more responsible academic and social environment for its entire community. Smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke have been globally recognized as leading causes of chronic illness and preventable death. In alignment with national public health regulations and global standards set forth by the World Health Organization (WHO), BUE is taking a proactive stance to foster a smoke-free campus that supports the well-being of all individuals on university premises.

As a forward-thinking institution committed to excellence, BUE believes that health is a cornerstone of academic and professional success. Clean air is a shared right, and a smoke-free environment ensures that our community is not exposed to the well-documented dangers of tobacco and nicotine use. Our commitment extends beyond compliance to a vision of long-term behavioral change and social responsibility, where faculty, staff, students, and visitors are inspired to embrace healthier lifestyles.

This policy reflects BUE's broader mission to promote public health, environmental sustainability, and a culture of accountability and respect. Through awareness campaigns, cessation support, and robust enforcement measures, BUE seeks to create a safe, clean, and welcoming atmosphere for all. This Smoke-Free Campus Policy is a comprehensive framework designed to eliminate the use of tobacco and nicotine products in any form across university property, while offering assistance to those seeking to quit.

By implementing this policy, BUE sets a high standard among educational institutions in Egypt and the region, reinforcing its position as a model for innovation, health advocacy, and institutional responsibility.

Signed:

Date:

Prof. Mohamed Loutfi.

University President.

Signed:

Date:

ENG. Youssef Youssef.

Chief Operation Officer.

Signed:

Date:

Eng. Mohamed Kassem.

HSE Manager.

Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, the following are considered smoking products:

- Traditional tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, pipes)
- Electronic nicotine delivery systems (e-cigarettes, vapes)
- Heated tobacco products
- Waterpipes, hookahs, and shisha
- Any similar device that emits smoke, vapor, or aerosol

Policy Guidelines

- Smoking and the use of tobacco and nicotine delivery products is strictly prohibited in all indoor spaces of the university.
- Smoking is not permitted inside personal vehicles when they are located on university property.
- In time there will be no designated smoking zones on campus, as the policy aims to achieve full smoke-free compliance.
- The sale, distribution, or promotion of tobacco products on campus is strictly forbidden.
- Hosting tobacco-sponsored events or accepting sponsorship from tobacco-related industries is not permitted.

Implementation and Compliance

- The policy will be enforced consistently by campus security, administrative personnel, and departmental supervisors.
- Clearly visible signage and informational posters will be displayed in multiple campus locations in both Arabic and English.
- Individuals found violating the policy will first receive a verbal reminder and educational materials. Repeated violations may result in disciplinary actions as follows:
 - Students: subject to the Student Code of Conduct, including warnings, fines, or disciplinary hearings.
 - Faculty and staff: addressed under the Human Resources disciplinary procedures.
 - Contractors and vendors: potential contract review and/or termination.
 - Visitors: may be asked to leave the premises and may be restricted from future access.

Support for Smoking Cessation

- BUE will offer comprehensive support services for community members who wish to quit smoking, in collaboration with national health organizations and external partners.
- Resources may include counseling, access to nicotine replacement therapies, support groups, and educational workshops.
- BUE's Health and Wellness Center will serve as a primary hub for these services and maintain confidentiality in supporting individuals through the cessation process.
- Targeted campaigns during orientation, exam seasons, and health awareness weeks will promote these offerings.

Communication and Awareness

- The Smoke-Free Policy will be prominently featured on the university website, new student and staff orientation materials, and university-wide announcements.
- Digital screens, social media platforms, and newsletters will be used to reinforce key messages throughout the academic year.
- Student organizations and academic departments will be encouraged to integrate smoke-free messaging into their events and initiatives.
- University leadership and faculty will model adherence to the policy and serve as champions of the smoke-free mission.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The effectiveness of the policy will be evaluated through periodic surveys, feedback collection, and incident reports.
- The Office of Sustainability, in collaboration with the Health and Wellness Center, will assess compliance trends and recommend improvements.
- Annual reports will summarize policy adherence, cessation support statistics, and community satisfaction.

Policy Review and Updates

This policy will be formally reviewed every two years or as needed to ensure it continues to meet health, safety, and environmental standards. Input from students, faculty, and staff will be taken into account when making adjustments.

Effective Date

This policy shall go into effect as of April 2025 and will remain in force until officially amended or repealed by university leadership.

Conclusion

By adopting and enforcing this Smoke-Free Campus Policy, the British University in Egypt reinforces its role as a model institution for health promotion, environmental stewardship, and student well-being. Together, we can build a vibrant and respectful community that prioritizes clean air, safe spaces, and healthy living for all.