Duhok Polytechnic University

Smoke-Free Policy

Policy information	
Policy number	DPU-POL-HS-03
Policy category	Health and Safety
Version	1.1
Policy owner	Sustainable Development Goals Policy Development Committee
Responsible office	University Security, with the Deans of colleges and institutes
Approving authority	University Council
Approval date	30/06/2024
Effective date	30/06/2024
Last review date	30/06/2025
Next review date	30/06/2027
Related policies	Student Completion Targets Policy for Students from Low-Income Households (Policy No. DPU-POL-SA-02)
SDG alignment	SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being)

1. Policy statement

Duhok Polytechnic University (DPU) is a smoke-free university. Smoking is prohibited in all indoor and outdoor university premises, to protect students, faculty, staff and visitors from the harmful effects of tobacco and secondhand smoke. The policy promotes a culture of wellness and aligns with national and global health initiatives, including those of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Iraqi Ministry of Health.

2. Purpose

This policy aims to:

- promote public health by reducing tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke on campus
- protect non-smokers by ensuring a clean and healthy learning and working environment
- support smokers who want to quit with resources and cessation support
- set a positive example and encourage healthy lifestyles among young people and the wider community
- comply with Iraqi public health regulations and WHO guidelines

3. Scope

This policy applies to all students, faculty, administrative staff, contractors and visitors, on all DPU premises: the five technical colleges and six technical institutes on the Duhok, Zirka, Zakho, Shekhan, Amedi and Shingal campuses, including dormitories. It covers all forms of smoking, including cigarettes, shisha (hookah) and electronic smoking devices.

4. Definitions

Term	Meaning

Term	Meaning
Smoking	Inhaling, exhaling, burning or carrying any lit tobacco product, including cigarettes, cigars and shisha (hookah)
Electronic smoking device	Any electronic cigarette, vape or similar device that delivers nicotine or other substances by inhalation
Secondhand smoke	Smoke or vapour exhaled by a smoker or released from a burning product and breathed in by others
University premises	All buildings, grounds, vehicles and facilities owned, leased or controlled by DPU, indoors and outdoors
Smoke-free zone	Any area where smoking and the use of electronic smoking devices are prohibited under this policy

5. Policy provisions

5.1 Smoke-free areas

The entire university campus is a smoke-free zone, including:

- classrooms, laboratories and workshops
- offices and meeting rooms
- libraries and computer labs
- dormitories
- cafeterias
- entrances, corridors and stairways
- car parks and outdoor grounds
- university vehicles

5.2 Signage and communication

- Clear "Smoke-Free Zone" and multilingual "No Smoking" signs are placed in strategic locations across all campuses.
- The policy is communicated through awareness campaigns, posters, announcements, seminars and social media.
- DPU marks World No Tobacco Day (31 May) every year to raise awareness.

5.3 Enforcement

- University Security and designated staff monitor compliance.
- A reporting system allows students, staff and visitors to report violations.
- Violations lead to disciplinary action, such as warnings or fines, in line with DPU regulations.

5.4 Support for smokers who want to quit

- access to smoking cessation programmes, counselling and health services
- referrals to the Duhok Directorate of Health and cessation hotlines
- information on the health benefits of quitting through awareness activities

6. Roles and responsibilities

Role	Responsibility

Role	Responsibility
University Council	Approves the policy and reviews its implementation
Sustainable Development Goals Policy Development Committee	Owns the policy; coordinates awareness campaigns and reviews
University Security and designated staff	Monitor compliance; record and report violations
Deans of colleges and institutes	Apply the policy on their campuses; ensure signage is in place; act on violations
Psychological and Social Counseling Center	Provides counselling and referrals for students and staff who want to quit
Duhok Directorate of Health (partner)	Provides technical assistance and cessation services
All students, staff and visitors	Comply with the policy and respect smoke-free zones

7. Implementation, monitoring and reporting

1. A committee of university leaders, health professionals, student representatives and legal advisers oversees implementation.
2. Meetings and workshops with students, staff and faculty gather feedback and build support, in collaboration with the Duhok Directorate of Health.
3. Security and administrative staff are trained on enforcement procedures.
4. Compliance is assessed regularly, and feedback is collected from the university community.
5. The committee reports on compliance and awareness activities to the University Council each year.

8. Related documents

- WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC)
- Iraqi public health laws and Ministry of Health regulations on tobacco control
- DPU Institutional Strategic Plan for University Reform 2024–2027

9. Policy review

The policy is reviewed every two years, or earlier if national regulations change. Reviews consider challenges such as resistance from smokers, enforcement across multiple campuses and outdoor areas, awareness gaps, and cultural and social attitudes to smoking.

10. Version history

Version	Date	Description	Approved by
1.0	30/06/2024	First approval	University Council
1.1	30/06/2025	Revised	University Council

11. Approval

Approved by the University Council of Duhok Polytechnic University, created on 30/06/2024, and revised on 30/06/2025.

