BAKU
SLAVIC
UNIVERSITY



SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS POLICY

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1. **3**
1.1. Purpose . . . 3
1.2. Context . . . 3
1.3. Legal and Regulatory Framework . . . 3
1.4. Definitions . . . 4
Section 2. **4**
2.1. Mission and Goals . . . 4
2.2. Scope . . . 4
Section 3. **5**
3.1. Smoke-Free and Vape-Free Campus . . . 5
3.2. University Events, Vehicles and Accommodation . . . 5
3.3. Sales, Advertising and Sponsorship . . . 5
Section 4. **5**
4.1. Awareness and Education . . . 5
4.2. Compliance and Enforcement . . . 6
Section 5. **6**
5.1. Support and Cessation Services . . . 6
Section 6. **6**
6.1. Environmental Commitment . . . 6
Section 7. **7**
7.1. Roles and Responsibilities . . . 7
Section 8. **7**
8.1. Monitoring . . . 7
8.2. Evaluation and Review . . . 7
Section 9. **8**
9.1. Resources and Partnerships . . . 8
9.2. Conclusion . . . 8

SECTION 1.

1.1. PURPOSE

Baku Slavic University (BSU) is committed to providing a healthy, safe and clean environment for learning, work and campus life. This policy makes the University's buildings and grounds completely free of smoking and vaping, protects students, staff and visitors from exposure to tobacco smoke and aerosol, and supports members of the University community who wish to stop using tobacco and nicotine products.

The policy supports UN Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being), in particular Target 3.a on strengthening the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and Target 3.4 on reducing premature deaths from non-communicable diseases.

1.2. CONTEXT

Tobacco use remains one of the leading preventable causes of disease, disability and death worldwide, and there is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke. Electronic cigarettes and other nicotine products also expose users and bystanders to harmful substances and can lead to nicotine dependence, especially among young people.

As a higher education institution, BSU has a particular responsibility to protect young people, to model healthy behaviour and to support national public health efforts.

1.3. LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

This policy is implemented in accordance with:

- the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan No. 887-VQ "On Restriction of the Use of Tobacco Products" (1 December 2017), which prohibits smoking – including hookah and electronic cigarettes – in educational institutions and on their territories, and restricts the sale, advertising, promotion and sponsorship of tobacco products;
- other applicable legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan on public health, fire safety and labour;
- the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control;
- the University's internal regulations, including the codes of conduct for students and staff.

Where national legislation sets stricter requirements than this policy, the legislation applies.

1.4. DEFINITIONS

Term	Meaning in this policy
Smoking	Using any lit tobacco product or any device that produces smoke, vapour or aerosol for inhalation.
Tobacco and nicotine products	Cigarettes, cigars, pipes, hookah (water pipes), heated tobacco products, electronic cigarettes and vapes (with or without nicotine), and smokeless tobacco and nicotine products.
Campus	All buildings, rooms, courtyards, grounds, sports facilities, car parks and student accommodation owned, leased or managed by BSU.
University community	Students, academic and administrative staff, contractors and their employees, and visitors.

SECTION 2.

2.1. MISSION AND GOALS

BSU's mission under this policy is to ensure clean air on campus, protect the University community from exposure to smoke and aerosol, and promote a culture of health and well-being. The policy has five goals:

- **Compliance** – full adherence to national tobacco control legislation and the WHO FCTC.
- **Protection** – a 100% smoke-free and vape-free campus, indoors and outdoors, and smoke-free University events.
- **Prevention** – awareness activities, clear signage and the prevention of smoking initiation among students.
- **Support** – free, confidential and non-judgemental help for anyone who wishes to quit.
- **Environment and safety** – better air quality, lower fire risk and less tobacco waste on campus.

2.2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all students, academic and administrative staff, contractors and their employees, and visitors. It covers:

- all BSU buildings and outdoor areas, including courtyards, entrances, sports facilities, car parks and student accommodation;
- University vehicles, whether owned or leased;
- all University-organised events, on or off campus;
- all tobacco and nicotine products defined in Section 1.4.

SECTION 3.

3.1. SMOKE-FREE AND VAPE-FREE CAMPUS

Smoking and vaping are prohibited everywhere on campus, both indoors and outdoors. This includes classrooms, laboratories, libraries, offices, auditoriums, corridors, stairwells, toilets, sports facilities, student accommodation, courtyards, entrances and car parks.

- "No smoking" signs, including e-cigarettes, are displayed at all entrances and in outdoor areas.
- No ashtrays or other smoking receptacles are provided anywhere on campus.
- In line with national legislation, BSU does not provide designated smoking areas within its buildings or grounds.

3.2. UNIVERSITY EVENTS, VEHICLES AND ACCOMMODATION

All University events – including conferences, cultural programmes, sports competitions and graduation ceremonies – are smoke-free and vape-free. When an event is held at an external venue, organisers inform participants of this policy and ensure that no smoking takes place in the event area. Smoking and vaping are prohibited in University vehicles and in student accommodation.

3.3. SALES, ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIP

- The sale or free distribution of tobacco and nicotine products is prohibited on campus.
- Advertising, promotion and display of tobacco and nicotine products and brands are prohibited on campus, on University channels and at University events.
- BSU does not accept sponsorship, funding or other support from the tobacco industry or organisations acting on its behalf, in line with Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC.

SECTION 4.

4.1. AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

BSU puts education and positive reinforcement first. The University:

- introduces this policy to all new students and staff during orientation and induction;
- marks World No Tobacco Day (31 May) and organises annual Health and Well-being Weeks;
- holds workshops and lectures on the harms of smoking and vaping with health institutions and NGOs;
- involves student volunteers and peer educators in awareness campaigns;
- publishes the policy and information about support services on its website.

4.2. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Every member of the University community shares responsibility for a smoke-free campus. Anyone who sees a person smoking may remind them politely of the policy. Breaches are handled in a fair and proportionate way:

- **First breach** – a reminder of the policy and information about support for quitting.
- **Second breach** – a formal written warning.
- **Repeated breaches** – disciplinary action under the University's codes of conduct for students, or under the Labour Code and internal regulations for staff.

Contractors are bound by this policy through their contracts. Visitors who do not comply may be asked to leave the campus. Concerns can be reported to the Student Affairs Department, the Human Resources Department or campus security. No one who reports a breach in good faith will face retaliation.

SECTION 5.

5.1. SUPPORT AND CESSATION SERVICES

BSU supports anyone in the University community who wishes to stop using tobacco or nicotine products. Support is free of charge, confidential and non-judgemental, and includes:

- counselling and motivational support from the Psychological Support Centre;
- initial medical advice at the University's medical point;
- referral to national tobacco cessation services and partner health clinics;
- educational materials and self-help guides on quitting;
- periodic consultations with visiting medical specialists.

SECTION 6.

6.1. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT

Cigarette butts are among the most common forms of litter. Their plastic filters release microplastics and toxic chemicals into soil and water. In support of SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 15 (Life on Land), BSU:

- organises student-led "Clean Campus" campaigns;
- keeps the campus free of tobacco litter through regular cleaning and inspections;
- promotes sustainable waste management and environmental awareness across all faculties.

SECTION 7.

7.1. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Unit	Responsibilities
Strategy and Quality Assurance Team	Owns the policy, coordinates its review and reports progress in the annual SDG 3 report.
Health and Sustainability Committee	Monitors implementation, analyses data and recommends improvements.
Student Affairs Department and Dean's Offices	Inform students, organise awareness activities and handle student breaches.
Human Resources Department	Includes the policy in staff induction and handles staff breaches.
Administrative and facility services	Maintain signage, keep the campus free of ashtrays and tobacco litter, and apply the policy to contractors.
Psychological Support Centre and medical point	Provide cessation support and referrals.
All members of the University community	Comply with the policy and support a respectful, smoke-free environment.

SECTION 8.

8.1. MONITORING

The Health and Sustainability Committee each year:

- surveys students and staff on tobacco and nicotine use, exposure to smoke, awareness of the policy and satisfaction with support services;
- records and analyses reported breaches and feedback, with personal data anonymised;
- reviews participation in awareness activities and cessation support;
- checks compliance through campus inspections, including signage and tobacco litter.

8.2. EVALUATION AND REVIEW

Monitoring results are included in BSU's annual SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being Report and are used to improve awareness, support and enforcement. This policy is reviewed every three years, or earlier if national legislation changes or monitoring identifies a need. The next scheduled review is on **21 September 2029**.

SECTION 9.

9.1. RESOURCES AND PARTNERSHIPS

BSU cooperates with:

- the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan and its public health institutions;
- the World Health Organization Country Office in Azerbaijan;
- the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan and youth organisations;
- local NGOs specialising in health promotion and environmental protection.

These partnerships strengthen awareness activities, cessation support and the long-term sustainability of the University's smoke-free initiatives.

9.2. CONCLUSION

Through this Smoke-Free Policy, Baku Slavic University reaffirms its commitment to public health, environmental responsibility and the well-being of its students and staff. The policy contributes directly to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 15 (Life on Land). Through education, support and responsible governance, BSU continues to build a healthy, sustainable and smoke-free academic environment.

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