

SDG 3
Good Health And Well-Being
3.3.6 Smoke free policy

Smoke Free Policy at MRU

The Smoke-Free Policy at Manav Rachna University (MRU) aims to ensure a healthy and safe environment for all students, staff, and visitors by prohibiting smoking and tobacco use across campus grounds. It aligns with the institute's commitment to promoting well-being, reducing health risks, and supporting sustainable practices.

Key Highlights:

1. Prohibition of Smoking:

- o Smoking, including the use of tobacco products such as cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, pipes, hookahs, and other nicotine-delivery systems, is strictly prohibited on all university-owned and operated grounds, both indoors and outdoors.

2. Scope and Applicability:

- o Applies to all individuals on campus, including faculty, staff, students, contractors, vendors, and visitors.

3. No Smoking Signage:

- o Clear "No Smoking" signage, including international symbols, is displayed across campus buildings, vehicles, and outdoor spaces.

4. Tobacco-Free Advertising:

- o Prohibits tobacco-related advertisements or sponsorships on university property or during university-sponsored events.

5. Education and Awareness:

- o Regular awareness campaigns, workshops, and communication initiatives are conducted to educate the university community about the health risks of smoking and the benefits of a smoke-free environment.

6. Enforcement:

- o Security personnel regularly patrol the campus to ensure compliance. Violators are subject to disciplinary action, ranging from warnings to penalties for repeat offenses.

7. Environmental Focus:

- o Emphasizes reducing environmental hazards caused by tobacco waste, supporting MRU's alignment with **Sustainable Development Goals 3 (Good Health and Well-being)** and **13 (Climate Action)**.

8. Respectful Transition:

- o Encourages mutual respect and support for individuals adjusting to the smoke-free environment.

Commitment:

MRU is dedicated to fostering a clean, healthy, and inclusive campus that prioritizes the well-being of its community while addressing the challenges of smoking and tobacco use through education, prevention, and support.

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Background: It is well recognized that smoking has health concerns. Research indicates that tobacco use, including smoking and exposure to second hand smoke, poses a substantial health risk. Additionally, smoking contributes to institutional expenses such as fire damage, cleaning and maintenance, as well as employee absenteeism, health care, and medical insurance costs. The Manav Rachna University (MRU) promotes the health of its students, employees, contractors, and visitors. There is conclusive evidence that smoke-free workplaces enhance the rate of smoking cessation and decrease the number of new smokers.

Policy Statement

- Everyone on campus at Manav Rachna University (MRU), Faridabad, is entitled to an atmosphere free of second-hand smoke that promotes their health and safety. MRU is committed to providing a smoke-free campus for the health and safety of all students, staff, and visitors. Accordingly, smoking is strictly prohibited on all university-owned and -operated grounds, both indoors and out.
- All University-owned cars and outdoor areas will be updated with new "No Smoking" signage or the international symbol for "No Smoking."
- Tobacco products of any kind, including cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, pipes, beedies, kreteks, water pipes, bongos, and hookahs, are not permitted on campus.
- No tobacco-related advertising or sponsorship is allowed on university-managed property, including on campus or at athletic venues, at university-sponsored events, or in university-published materials.
- The institution recognizes that quitting smoking is a major challenge for many people due to the habit's addictive qualities and the difficulty associated with doing so. The MRU is committed to helping its students kick the habit and will provide them with resources including smoking-cessation classes, easy access to nicotine replacement therapy, and professional guidance.
- Respect for others is essential during the transition to a smoke-free campus, including respect for smokers. You should calmly and respectfully tell smokers to go outside if they want to light up.
- The campuses will be patrolled on a regular basis by security personnel. Anyone caught smoking in violation of the aforementioned policy will be asked to stop immediately and informed of the need to comply with this procedure. Non-compliance with this procedure shall result in disciplinary action for employees, students, and contractors.

Smoking is prohibited at

This includes but is not limited to all buildings across campuses, classrooms, lecture hall, laboratories, offices, work areas, study areas, reception areas, meeting rooms, lobbies, stairwells, elevators, eating areas, and hostels

- Fields, open land areas, parking lots and garages, athletic fields, tracks, outdoor paths, and roads
- All vehicles owned and leased by the University or its affiliated organizations

Those hosting and attending public events on university-managed property, such as conferences, meetings, lectures, social gatherings, cultural events, and athletic events, must adhere to the MRU Smoke-Free Policy. The event planners have the duty to inform the participants of this rule.

Applicability

Faculty, employees, students, volunteers, trainees, supplemental staff employed through contract agencies or outside trade unions, vendors, guests, and visitors are all included in the scope of this policy's applicability.

Responsibility

To ensure this policy is followed consistently across the MRU campus, everyone involved must treat each other with dignity and respect and work together.

Implementation

Policy shall be implemented through the Standard Operating Procedures included as Annexure A.

Standard Operating Procedures

1. Policy Communication and Awareness Initiatives

- **Orientation Programs:** The smoke-free policy will be communicated during orientation for new students, staff, and faculty.
- **Regular Updates:** The policy will be shared through email communications, the university website, and social media channels to ensure ongoing awareness.
- **Workshops and Campaigns:** Regular workshops and awareness campaigns will be conducted to educate the university community about the health hazards of smoking and second-hand smoke.

2. Regular Feedback Mechanism

- A periodic survey will be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the smoke-free policy and gather feedback from students, staff, and visitors to ensure continuous improvement.

3. Recognition Programs

- Recognize and celebrate individuals and departments actively promoting smoke-free practices or achieving milestones in smoking cessation efforts.

4. Environmental Sustainability Linkage

- Highlight how the smoke-free policy aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and SDG 13 (Climate Action) by reducing cigarette waste and pollution caused by tobacco products.

5. Penalty and Rehabilitation Framework

- **Introduce a tiered approach for non-compliance:**
 - **First Violation:** Verbal warning and education on the policy.
 - **Repeated Violations:** Written warnings and mandatory counseling sessions.
 - **Habitual Offenders:** Referral to HR for employees or disciplinary committees for students.

6. Strategic Partnerships

- Collaborate with local health organizations, government bodies, and NGOs for access to additional smoking cessation programs and support networks.

7. Inclusion of Evolving Products

- Extend the ban to cover newer smoking alternatives or nicotine-delivery systems (e.g., heated tobacco products or other emerging technologies) to future-proof the policy.

Incorporating these points will enhance the comprehensiveness of MRU's smoke-free policy, ensuring it remains proactive, inclusive, and supportive while promoting a healthier and cleaner campus environment.

Smoke-Free University Policy

1. Purpose

This policy aims to ensure a healthy, clean, and safe environment for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors by eliminating smoking and tobacco use within the university premises. It aligns with the national laws and public health initiatives, particularly the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply, and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA) and the 'Swachh Bharat Swasth Bharat' campaign.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All individuals present within the university campus including students, employees, visitors, and vendors.
- All university buildings, hostels, classrooms, laboratories, offices, canteens, sports areas, vehicles, and open spaces within the campus boundary.

3. Policy Statement

The university is committed to maintaining a Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Campus. The use, sale, and promotion of tobacco or smoking products in any form—including cigarettes, cigars, e-cigarettes, bidis, hookahs, chewing tobacco, gutkha, and pan masala—are strictly prohibited on campus.

4. Legal Framework

This policy is in accordance with:

- Section 4 of COTPA, 2003, prohibiting smoking in public places.
- Section 268 of the Indian Penal Code, defining public nuisance.
- Relevant provisions under WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

5. Implementation Guidelines

1. Signage:

- Prominent "Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Zone" boards shall be displayed at all entrances, corridors, lifts, and common areas.
- Each board must be at least 60 cm x 30 cm, bearing the warning:
"Use of any form of tobacco in this premise is prohibited and is a punishable offence with a fine up to ₹200/-."



THIS PREMISE/ BUILDING IS TOBACCO FREE

Use of any form of tobacco in this premise is prohibited and is a punishable offence with fine up to Rs. 200/-





If you find anybody smoking/ spitting tobacco please report to:

Name:.....
 Designation:..... Telephone No:.....

To quit tobacco call 1800 11 2356 or give a missed call at 011-22901701




- The name and contact details of the designated officer for complaints must be displayed on each board.
2. Enforcement Authority:
- The Registrar shall appoint an Enforcement Officer (usually the Head of Institution/Department) responsible for ensuring compliance and collecting fines for violations.
3. Entry Gate Protocol:
- Tobacco disposal boxes shall be installed at each entry gate.
 - Individuals carrying tobacco products must dispose of them before entering campus.

THIS PREMISE/ BUILDING IS TOBACCO FREE





You are entering into Tobacco Free Zone

Taking tobacco products inside the Premise/ Building is prohibited




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4. Awareness and Education:

- Regular awareness campaigns, workshops, and activities shall be organized to educate students and staff on the health hazards of smoking and tobacco use.
- Observance of World No Tobacco Day (31st May) shall be institutionalized as an annual event.

5. Disciplinary Action:

- Violation of the policy will attract a fine up to ₹200 as per COTPA.
- Repeated violations may lead to further disciplinary action in accordance with university regulations.

6. Responsibility

- All Deans, Directors, and Heads of Departments must ensure policy implementation within their respective areas.
- Security staff shall monitor campus entry points for compliance.
- Students and staff are expected to uphold and promote the policy as part of the university's culture of health and respect.

7. Effective Date

This policy comes into effect on the date of its approval by the University Administration.

Effective from: AY 2023-24.

