

## College Societies and Alcohol

Downing College has a rich and varied collection of societies that span the realms of academic, sporting, cultural and charitable activity. College and University societies and clubs are the principal way that students experience and share University culture outside of the confines of their own academic discipline. Some societies are purely social clubs, to escape from directed activity, and these are also part of College life.

Many society events involve alcohol, and all College members are expected to comply with the College rules and policies relating to alcohol and also to inclusivity. Particularly relevant policies are listed below. Some societies focus on alcohol consumption (“drinking societies”); these too are expected to comply with the same regulations and are particularly scrutinised as their aims are not of benefit to the broader community. There is no privilege for unacceptable behaviour as part of a society, and individuals can expect to be subject to disciplinary procedures if they contravene College rules. Societies that encourage poor behaviour are unwelcome and are not a valued part of the College community; individuals found to be inciting such activity can expect to be asked to see the Dean.

- Respect and Dignity Policy

This guidance details the requirement that all individuals should act so as to make Downing an inclusive community without fear of harassment and provides links to complaint procedures that that apply if this is not the case.

- Alcohol Policy

This page sets out the expectations of both individuals and societies with respect to alcohol use. Note that the College holds an alcohol licence and is obliged to regulate the use of alcohol at events in College.

- Guidance for College Clubs and Societies

These notes describe the necessary steps to establish a society, including how to write and have approved constitutions, manage finances, and limit liability for activities. All groups that receive College or DCAC funding are expected to have a valid, approved, constitution and objectives that benefit the College community.

Concern about either the conduct of individuals who are part of a society, or the conduct of the leadership of a society, should be addressed to your Tutor, the Senior Tutor or the Dean so that action can be taken.