

# MCR Policy on Alcohol

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## 1. USE OF ALCOHOL BY THE MCR:

The use of alcohol by the MCR in college is to assist in providing social facilities and activities for its members, and is managed to ensure a reasonable balance between encouraging communal life, respecting the needs of those affected by MCR holding events, and the welfare of individuals. Serving of alcohol in rooms other than the college bar is not done to compete with the bar or to provide financial income to the MCR, rather it allows events to be held in the MCR or elsewhere when other events are underway (such as JCR bops, or conferences which provide income to the college), can provide a mechanism for the responsible serving of alcohol when opening the college bar would be to the financial detriment of the college, and enables the MCR to hold events in special locations, which forms a key part of the Queens' College MCR experience.

The use of alcohol is under continual review by the MCR committee throughout the year and between years, as the needs of students evolve. Alcohol is part of a holistic approach to entertainment in the MCR, and there are many non-alcoholic events in addition to those involving alcohol to ensure there is something for everybody, so that community can be inclusive, suiting students from a broad range of cultures and backgrounds. The use of alcohol by the MCR should be proportionate, safe, and responsible. The MCR does not support in any way activities which undermine or contravene the objectives or policy of the college, or licensing authorities, or the interests of its members with regard to their wellbeing, or the local areas surrounding college properties. The MCR proactively directs students who are suffering from forms of alcohol abuse or consuming alcohol in irresponsible fashion to welfare support available at Queens' College.

Those who encounter any issues with alcohol usage, or instances of misuse of alcohol at MCR events are urged to bring it to the attention of MCR officers, particularly with reference to instances of antisocial behaviour, or any issue concerning a student's welfare. The MCR committee actively maintains this policy to ensure legal compliance and consistency with the aims and objectives of the MCR and of the wider college.

## 2. THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON:

The responsible person for all MCR events is the MCR President by default, unless specifically communicated otherwise to the catering office in advance of the event taking place. This applies regardless of which name appears on permission forms submitted to the catering office.

The college handbook states that the "Responsible Person" is required to be present for the duration of the event, and is accountable for the behaviour of non-members of the College attending it, wherever they might be within College. All those who attend such events, whether or not they are members of College, must comply with College regulations, including the prohibition on smoking other than in permitted areas. In the MCR's case, the responsible person is required to remain sober during MCR events, ensure that drinks are served in a safe and legal manner, in a way which is consistent with the college's obligations under licensing law, and the college's other rules.

### 3. RELEVANT INFORMATION:

The official documents section of the Queens' College website contains the links to the college alcohol policy, and the student handbook which outlines the role of the 'responsible person'.

<https://www.queens.cam.ac.uk/life-at-queens/documents-policy/official-documents>

The Licensing Act of 2003, governing the sale of alcohol, may be found online

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/17/contents>

The terms of the College License are held here by the licensing authority – click to access the online register and search “\*queens” to find those relevant to college.

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/alcohol-and-entertainment-licensing>

Guidance on the permitted price of alcohol (an amendment to the 2003 licensing act) which was brought into operation in 2015 can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/banning-the-sale-of-alcohol-below-the-cost-of-duty-plus-vat-march-2015>

### 4. NOTES WITH REFERENCE TO THE COLLEGE LICENSE TERMS:

#### Reference to Annex 1:

1. The college appoints a designated premises supervisor to exercise its license.
2. The supervisor authorises senior MCR officers, upon the approval of the Dean of College, to serve alcohol at events, as they are legally entitled to do under the terms of the license, in the Woodville Room and other rooms in college. The MCR President is ultimately accountable within the MCR committee itself for ensuring the safe and responsible sale and consumption of alcohol at MCR events; they and the senior MCR officers, the MCR Treasurer and Secretary are considered “responsible people”. They are assisted by the rest of the committee, as follows:
3. (1) Ents officers are responsible for event organisation and promotion, Event advertisements do not take a tone encouraging the consumption of alcohol (though they may list the intended drinks and theme).

Ents officers and other committee serving drinks and present at events ensure as far as is reasonably possible that alcohol at MCR events is consumed in a responsible manner. They, and any other committee members serving drinks on the night make sure that:

- i. Drinking games do not occur.
- ii. Individuals do not drink to excess.
- vi. Ents officers or committee members control alcohol consumption during MCR events: individual MCR members are not allowed to serve themselves, and spirits are stored under lock and key.
- iii. The maximum strength of cocktails is set as 1 x sprits: 2 x mixer, and individuals are served with soft drinks or water if they are thought to be intoxicated. Sprits or fortified wines can both be served in 25 ml. measures.
- iv. The method of serving drinks is strictly by the glass or small size plastic glass, both available in minimum measure.

- v. The Ents Officers, together with the Welfare Rep and senior officers present, are responsible for a duty of care in the event that MCR members are intoxicated. If necessary for any matter concerning welfare or disorder, porters can be contacted, and students can be pointed towards college welfare.
- vi. Drinks are not to be brought into MCR parties by attendees, except if purchased from the college bar.
- vii. Attendees may not take drinks for the consumption of others who are intoxicated.
- viii. Any attendee ignoring rules such that a licensing objective may be undermined can be refused service, or be removed by those organising the event, and should be refunded immediately upon request.

4. Potable water is provided in jugs throughout the events by the Ents officers along with clean glasses or plastic glasses – its presence is checked by all throughout events, alongside a decent range of non-alcoholic soft drinks or non-alcoholic cocktails. In addition, some type of food is always purchased for consumption- for example crisps or cheese.

5. The age of entrants is judged by the MCR Treasurer or other MCR officer upon entry, the names of guests are logged beforehand in online forms for receptions where in attendance with MCR members, and individually in advance for guests at events in the Woodville room. Those serving drinks also make a judgement regarding age, and may remove any attendees who are under the minimum age as necessary.

6. During wine receptions, 125ml glasses are available for wine, and during MCR parties, the standard measures adopted by the committee and plastic cups used for consumption mean that at no time are volumes of drinks served which are above the minimum measures; fortified wine or sprits are served in 25ml measure.

7,8,9,10. Party entry charges of £5.00 and those for wine receptions of £10.00, in addition to the MCR's restrictions on alcohol content of cocktails mean that it is impossible for a person to consume alcohol at a value below the minimum price set by law. The formal hall price and feast price lies well above that of drinks served beforehand and afterward. If the MCR choses to account for drinks individually, prices are chosen and advertised such that they lie above the minimums required under law.

#### Reference to Annex 2:

2. College porters are fully trained first aiders and are contacted in the event of any serious accident.

4. Lighting within the Woodville room and with the lobby is maintained to good order by the college.

5. The college carries a comprehensive insurance policy, which covers MCR activities.

7. On the occasions that Music is played after 23:00 within the Woodville Room, the windows must be closed.

8. As explained above, the age of entrants is judged by the MCR Treasurer or other MCR officer upon entry, and by Ents officers serving drinks. The areas where alcohol may be served in college under license are as follows:

- 1. External courtyards and gardens
- 2. Flat roof of Cripps Court
- 3. Flat roof of Erasmus Building
- 4. Dining Hall

5. Lobby and Cafeteria
6. Fitzpatrick Hall
7. Angevin Room
8. Bar and Conservatory
9. Armitage Room
10. Squash Courts
11. Bowett Room
12. Solarium
13. Old Hall and Gallery
14. Old SCR
15. Munro Room
16. Old Kitchens
17. Erasmus Room
18. Audit Room
19. Long Gallery and Essex Room
20. President's Study
21. MCR