

# NUS Wales supplementary information for Members of the Children, Young People and Education Committee

*November 2022*

## Mental Health support in Higher Education – evidence session 6, Wednesday 26 October 2022

### **Drinking and Lad Culture**

#### **Alcohol Impact**

The National Union of Students (NUS) has partnered with Alcohol Impact<sup>1</sup> in a bid to change social norms around drinking on university campuses and promote responsible alcohol consumption. This partnership aims to promote responsible behaviour on campus and in the community, as well as to improve the health and wellbeing of students and promote a more inclusive environment.

There is a dedicated NUS/Alcohol Impact microsite<sup>2</sup> containing case studies, FAQs and information on all the programmes available to UK universities to help change norms around drinking on and off campus. Individual students' unions additionally deliver invaluable work in this space, including running alcohol-free events and trips packages, and encouraging a culture of inclusion through student societies and sports clubs.

#### **Tackling 'Lad Culture'**

The NUS is also carrying out ongoing work nationally in tackling lad culture. So far this has involved helping to embed campaigns for tackling sexual harassment in students' unions plans annually and sharing best practice of university campaigns to inspire others.

The NUS' 2013 'That's What She Said' report<sup>3</sup> into lad culture outlined women's' experiences on campus and the impact of lad culture on their studies and welfare. Following the report, we identified 9 Lad Culture Strategy pilot unions and partnered with them to develop effective local strategies that can be adapted to tackle lad culture nationally. Dedicated resources have

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/sustainability/alcohol-impact>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.drugandalcoholimpact.uk>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/articles/tackling-lad-culture-new-resources-available-on-the-hub>

been created to aid students' unions in their own work to tackle lad culture. These resources have since been updated by the NUS Women's' Campaign with specific campaign resources to promote the importance of consent. <sup>4</sup>

Since this work, we've seen more and more student's unions across the country taking a proactive role to tackle lad culture, and making necessary changes to create safer, happier and healthier campuses.

## Employment

NUS Wales does **not hold specific data on students taking part time jobs to students to supplement their income**. However, the Stats Wales website shows that on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 55.5% of those aged 16-24 in Wales were in employment. <sup>5</sup> This is slightly up from 53.7% on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

It's also important to note that international students are limited to a maximum of 20 hours per week of work by visa restrictions. <sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/articles/nus-women-s-campaign-resources-updated>

<sup>5</sup> <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Business-Economy-and-Labour-Market/People-and-Work/Employment/Persons-Employed/employmentrate-by-welshlocalarea-year-gender>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.internationalstudents.cam.ac.uk/student-visa-responsibilities/working-student-visa#:~:text=A%20student%20visa%20issued%20for,averaged%20over%20a%20longer%20period>