

SSN Charter

Who are we?

The Drug Science Student Society Network (SSN) is an international network of university students and student societies relating to drug policy, science and research, all of which are aligned with Drug Science's mission: to provide an evidence base free from political or commercial influence, creating the foundation for sensible and effective drug laws, and equipping the public, media and policy makers with the knowledge and resources to enact positive change.

We offer an interactive network of students passionate about this area, and encourage discussions and discourse related to our goals. We also provide education for students around evidence-based drug policy and drug science, equipping them with the tools they need to influence policy makers, governing bodies and thought leaders. Our harm reduction and educational resources are always derived from science and research, so that we can help students understand the *truth* about drugs.

The SSN is led by students for students. We are a subsidiary of Drug Science and we operate as a student-led branch of this charity providing educational materials and an interactive network of students and student societies across the world. Whilst our goals are aligned with Drug Science's mission, we function almost entirely as a separate organisation. Please note, we are formed of an entirely volunteer committee of university students and recent graduates.

Why are we doing this?

We believe that we are stronger as a community, working together to make change happen. By linking up university societies and students, we create a web of like-minded, passionate teams who might have more influence as a network than as separate groups. The SSN is a platform where we can share our ideas and learn from one another.

Why is it important? Because there is still so much stigma in the UK and worldwide around drugs. The "war on drugs" narrative was born out of political propaganda rather than science, and history has shown that unfortunately it has done more harm than good, yet remains commonplace in our mainstream media and education system. This is despite an increase in research trials and studies in recent years into areas such as medical psychedelics and medical cannabis. The media is

beginning to shift its viewpoint in favour of new research, but there is still a long way to go, especially when it comes to changing the minds of politicians. This makes it all the more vital that our young people have the opportunity to learn about drugs from a scientific and evidence-based standpoint.

What are we creating?

- Online community platform (a WhatsApp community)
- Regular newsletter
- Shareable assets
- Printed & online educational resources
- Resources and advice to help societies in our network
- In-person and online collaborative events
- Independent SSN events

How does a society join?

Any student society can apply to join the network, providing they meet the criteria laid out in the SSN [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MoU). To become a member, download and fill in the MoU for your society, then send as a PDF or Word document to: students@drugscience.org.uk. We also require societies to agree to the requirements outlined in our 'Branding and Identity' pack, which will be provided upon receipt of a signed copy of the MoU.

Drug Science will then confirm your membership and share the invite link to join our WhatsApp community. Students are able to join by filling out a google form on our website (<https://www.drugscience.org.uk/students/>). After filling out this form, you will be sent a link to join our community. PLEASE DO NOT SHARE THIS LINK AROUND TO PREVENT SPAMMING/BOTS IN OUR CHATS

Team & members

- Co-Chairs: Ben Clayden & Harvey Berrington
- Oversight: James Bunn, Head of Operations (at Drug Science)
- To contact us, email students@drugscience.org.uk