

Firearms, Imitation Firearms and Offensive Weapons Policy

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1. Introduction

The danger associated with weapons the use of weapons, be that real or imitation can culminate in serious injury and at times death. Criminal law makes it an offence to possess guns, knives and other offensive weapons in certain circumstances. Current legislation also places a duty of care upon employers to take reasonable care to protect the health and safety of their employees. The implementation of this policy is aimed at supporting this, and all staff and students are expected to support it.

2. Scope

Birmingham City University is committed to providing a safe working environment for all staff and students along with safe and secure residency. To emphasise this the University promotes a “No Weapons” policy throughout its campuses. This includes all University owned or let residencies, grounds or car parks, and any other building owned or occupied by the University.

3. Principles

The presence, possession, ownership or keeping of any:

- Firearm or shotgun (or parts of)
- Imitation firearm or shotgun (or parts of)
- Air pistol or rifle (or parts of)
- Spring loaded gun (or parts of)
- Laser pointer
- Pyrotechnic (fireworks, flares etc.)
- Catapult
- Archery equipment (e.g. crossbow)
- Sword or dagger
- Any other offensive weapon (as defined by law)
- Bullet, pellet or other projectile intended to be ejected or fired from any of the aforementioned items

is strictly prohibited across all University owned, let or used property and land, unless prior written permission has been obtained from the Director of Estates & Facilities and/or Assistant Director of Security Services.

This also includes any firearm legally owned or possessed by virtue of a firearm or shotgun certificate, and any associated gun cabinet.

Knives:

It's illegal to:

- Sell a knife of any kind to anyone under 18 years old (16 to 18 year olds in Scotland can buy cutlery and kitchen knives)
- Carry a knife in public without good reason.
 - *For BCU policy this is regardless of type / blade length etc whilst on BCU campuses.*
- Carry, buy or sell any type of banned knife
- Use any knife in a threatening way (including a legal knife, such as a Swiss Army knife)

Whether or not an item is deemed to be a firearm or weapon, it is at the discretion of the Director of Estates & Facilities and/or Assistant Director of Security Services as to the approval of presence within BCU campuses.

4. Exemptions

Any item or article which is an integral part of an approved University programme of study.

5. Strategy

The University has a responsibility for the implementation of this policy and University management has the responsibility for its effective development as well as its implementation.

Responsibility for the successful adherence to the Policy lies with each member of staff, students and visitors.

Heads of Faculty, School and Departments hold an enhanced responsibility for monitoring and enforcing this Policy. Any breach of Policy must be drawn to the attention of the Director of Estates & Facilities and/or the Assistant Director of Security Services.

Failure to observe the Policy may be dealt with under the University's disciplinary procedure for both staff and students.

6. Review

This policy will be formally reviewed by the Security Department every three years, or sooner where new developments necessitate such a review.

Formal reviews of Policy will be carried out in consultation with managers and other key stakeholders.