

Drugs in Residence

I am a third-year student in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and I would like to share my story. I was living in Residence for the first time in my life when I **made some horrible decisions** that caught up with me quickly. **I ignored one of the major rules in residence about smoking and possession/use of narcotics.** My roommate and I thought we could get away with smoking in my room because we didn't want to go outside, but this wasn't the case. An RA caught us in the act, and Campus Police had to get involved. We had marijuana and paraphernalia in residence, and this was deemed totally unacceptable. The whole thing became an **extremely stressful experience.** We had to meet with the head of Campus Police and go in front of the Judicial Board. We were evicted from residence right away without even the possibility of a second chance. The University and Residence Services take these matters extremely seriously.

Getting in this kind of trouble can cause you a lot of strife. Not only is it difficult because you have to find somewhere else to live, it takes a toll on you mentally and makes it very difficult to handle school at the same time. **An offence such as this can also leave a permanent mark on your record and destroy your career.** If you don't get a police record, you can still get a record on your transcript. There are several possible consequences including suspension and expulsion. In fact, my case was also sent to the Academic Integrity Office.

This issue goes beyond school policy however. Drugs should be avoided whether or not you are on campus or in residence. Drugs are expensive and they rot your mind. **I see people with bright futures throw them away to get high.** If you are going to spend the time and money being in University, you are only making it harder for yourself to be successful if you take drugs and party constantly.

My advice in this matter is simply to **stay clear of drugs because they will only get you in trouble somewhere down the road.** If ever you do screw up and get caught, then my advice is to **be as honest and forthright as possible.** The only reason I am still on my feet is that **I cooperated every step of the way.** From the moment I was first caught I did everything in my power to save my skin, and that's what you have to do. Be honest, don't delay, and be prepared to do whatever it takes to earn your own second chance. I'm glad I got mine, but it **would have been much easier if it had never happened in the first place.**

- Third-year Social Science student
December 2008