

# E-scooters and e-bikes conditions of use

UWE Bristol

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## Purpose

This document sets out the University's position on the use and charging of privately owned/operated e-scooters and e-bikes on or in university managed property.

The use of sustainable methods of travel are encouraged wherever possible by students, staff, tenants, and visitors, whilst needing to ensure that the safety and comfort of its community is fully considered.

This document covers the University's three main campus sites, of Frenchay, City, and Glenside. It provides specific guidance for the use of powered cycles, scooters, and powered transporters. Mobility scooters and aids such as powered wheelchairs are not covered by this guidance.

## Definitions

- **E-scooters:** 2-wheeled stand-on scooters propelled by a motor, instead of being manually propelled. This term is used as shorthand in this policy to cover all powered transporters.
- **E-bikes:** bicycles which are propelled by a motor, as well as being manually propelled.
- **Powered transporters:** the Government uses this term to cover a variety of novel personal transport devices which are propelled by a motor, as well as/instead of being manually propelled. It includes e-scooters, Segways, hoverboards, go-peds (combustion engine-powered kick-scooters), powered unicycles, and u-wheels.

## Legal position

### E-scooters

E-scooters and Powered Transporters fall within the legal definition of a "motor vehicle" therefore the laws that apply to motor vehicles also apply to e-scooters and powered transporters. **It is illegal to use an e-scooter or powered transporter\*:**

- on private land without the permission of the landowner.
- on a public road without complying with numerous legal requirements, which potential users will find very difficult.
- in spaces that are set aside for use by pedestrians, cyclists, and horse-riders; this includes on the pavement and in cycle lanes.
- Any person who uses a powered transporter on a public road or other prohibited space in breach of the law is committing a criminal offence and can be prosecuted.

Trial schemes are currently running in the West of England Region for the use of approved rental e-scooters only. The rules for private e-scooters and other powered transporters have not changed.

The University has granted permission for the use of the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) trial e-scooters on university sites, the General Principles of e-bikes outlined below also fully apply to the use of the Trial Scooters.

\* Source: [Powered transporters - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/powering-transporters)

The University's campuses are private land. **The University has not granted permission for the use of or charging of private e-scooters on any of its campus sites or properties.**

## E-bikes

Unlike e-scooters, there are specific existing regulations governing the allowable use of e-bikes in the UK on public roads\*\*.

The University therefore **permits the use of e-bikes on its campuses**, providing the general principles detailed below are complied with.

## General principles

- Our campuses are shared by pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles. To keep everyone safe, all users should be considerate towards other road and path users.
- Pedestrians have priority over cycles and scooters on all shared footpaths.
- Cycles and scooters must use lights between dusk and dawn so that you can see and be clearly seen.
- Whilst e-bikes are permitted, the electrical assistance should not be used when travelling on shared footpaths.
- Private E-scooters are not permitted, to align with them being illegal external to campus.
- Cycles and scooters, whether powered or not, are not permitted to be brought into university buildings except when accessing allocated storage facilities in internal courtyards.

## Charging of bike/scooter batteries within university property

- Due to current prohibition on the use of personal e-scooters and the additional fire safety risks associated with the batteries in e-scooters and E-bikes the charging of these personal items in university buildings and UWE managed halls of residence is strictly prohibited.
- Personnel who notice a battery being charged should, where appropriate, report it to their line manager who will take the appropriate action in bringing this policy to the attention of the owner of the battery and request compliance with the same. Where it is not appropriate to report to a line manager people are advised, where safe to do so, switch off the equipment at the wall socket and disconnect the battery from the power source then report the finding to Estates & Facilities via the 222 helpline. The helpline will then notify the Travel & Access team who will attend to leave a note for the owner to explain why the battery has been disconnected.

- The University is currently investigating the introduction of charging points for e-bikes within cycle storage facilities, when available these facilities will be advertised on the UWE travel information pages of the UWE web site.

More generally, the University recommends that users carefully follow the manufacturer's guidance for charging their devices, for further advice please refer to [Fire risks of batteries and chargers - Avon Fire & Rescue Service](#)

## Noncompliance and reporting concerns

All staff, student, contractors of visitors to the University are expected to comply with the conditions of use,

- Executive Deans, Directors of Services, Heads of Departments, Managers and Supervisors are responsible for bringing the conditions of use to the attention of staff, students, contractors, and visitors to the University.
- Students' Union Chief Executive Officer will be responsible for ensuring that the guidance is complied with in all premises under their managerial control.
- Executive Deans and Directors of Services that engage Contractors to work on university premises must ensure that Contractors' employees are aware of the conditions of use and that their compliance with it is a contractual agreement.
- Those organising events will ensure that all visitors are aware of the provisions of the conditions of use via effective and appropriate communications.
- Individual staff and student members of the University community have a right to politely ask individuals to remove any unauthorised equipment.
- Any instances of noncompliance should be reported to the facilities helpdesk (222)
- Failures to respond to requests to adhere to the conditions of use will be addressed initially through information and support. Staff and students who disregard or refuse to comply will be subject to normal conduct procedures. Visitors and contractors who fail to comply through reasonable persuasion will be asked to leave the premises.

\*\*Source: [Electrically assisted pedal cycles \(EAPCs\) in Great Britain: information sheet](#)