

UTAS Security fact sheet: Your personal safety

- Never carry your 'PIN' number with your bank cards.
- Don't carry large amounts of cash – take only what you need.
- Recognise dangerous situations before they develop.
- Never leave your keys, purse, wallet, mobile, bag etc unsecured or unattended.
- Remember to always lock your car and home.

Safety when walking

- Try to always walk with a friend or in a group, especially at night. Try not to leave a building alone at night.
- Keep to well-lit populated areas with lots of activity. Don't take short cuts, especially at night.
- Don't accept lifts from strangers or people you don't know very well.
- Avoid making conversations with strangers in cars or on foot when out walking – it is better to seem rude than to be in danger.
- Walk confidently. Confidence deters attackers.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Wearing headphones or talking/texting on your mobile will make you less alert to what is happening around you.
- If someone follows you, change direction and go to where there are other people. Call Security on campus or police everywhere else.
- If someone attacks you, scream and shout as loudly as you can.
- Ignore verbal abuse, but try to remember details. Always report incidents.
- If you think there may be danger, make a safety plan. Think about what you would do if you felt threatened.

Always report incidents of verbal or physical abuse.

Staying safe when going out

All the safety tips from the previous section also apply when you are out socialising in your free time. Below are some more safety tips to help you have a safe social life.

If you experience problems while you are not on campus, you must call the police for assistance because UTAS Security cannot operate outside University property.

Before you go out

Always tell a trustworthy person:

- where you are going
- who you are going to be with
- what time you expect to be home

If you change your plans later, call or text the person to let them know.

Safe socialising

- It is illegal to drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol – always have a sober person with you who can drive, or catch a taxi.
- Don't drink too much while out; if you get drunk, you may lose control and there is a risk that you will be unsafe.
- If a friend goes missing while you are out, make sure you look for them.
- Always keep enough money with you to get home safely in a taxi.
- Always take a phone card or your mobile with you and make sure the battery is charged.
- Do not walk the streets looking for a taxi. Phone a taxi from the venue before leaving.

Drink spiking

Drink spiking is when someone adds drugs or alcohol to your drink without your knowledge. A victim of drink spiking may be vulnerable to sexual assault, robbery and physical attack.

If you are a victim of drink spiking, you might feel:

- more tired or drunk than you should be
- very confused
- sick
- dizzy or disoriented

Avoid being the victim of drink spiking by following these guidelines:

- Never leave drinks unattended (this includes water, juice, soft drinks or alcohol) and avoid sharing drinks.
- Don't accept drinks from strangers.
- Refuse drinks that look, smell or taste strange, particularly strong tasting drinks.
- Always watch your drinks being poured or opened.

If you think your drink has been spiked:

- Leave the venue with people you trust.
- Seek medical assistance, if required.
- Contact the police to report the incident.

If a friend complains of experiencing the above symptoms or behaves out of character, take them to a place of safety and seek medical assistance for them if necessary.

UTAS Security is available 24 hours.

In an emergency phone

6226 7600 (Hobart)

6324 3336 (Launceston & Burnie)