



Smoking Laws in Hong Kong

On **April 30th 2026** Hong Kong has enforced a **comprehensive ban on all alternative smoking products**, including electronic devices and related materials. The law applies to everyone in the city including residents, tourists, and **students**.

For the most up-to-date information please visit: [Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office Department of Health](#)

What Is Banned

The following items are prohibited from **import, sale, use and public possession**:

- Electronic smoking devices (vapes)
- Cartridges, pods, or refill liquids
- Heated tobacco devices and heat sticks
- Herbal or non-nicotine alternatives

If it resembles a vaping product or accessory, it is covered by the ban.

Examples of banned products (Alternative Smoking Products)

Electronic Smoking Products

電子煙

Electronic Smoking Products



Herbal Cigarettes

草本煙

Herbal Cigarettes



Heated Tobacco Products

加熱煙

Heated Tobacco Products



Where the Ban Applies

The ban applies in **all public places including**:

- Streets, sidewalks, parks, beaches
- Public transport and stations
- Shopping malls, restaurants, bars
- University campuses and student housing



Penalties

Violations of the ban carry **strict penalties** including:

- HK\$3,000 fixed penalty for minor possession
- Up to HK\$50,000 and 6 months imprisonment for more serious cases
- Confiscation at airports or boarder checkpoints
- **Possession in public, even inside a bag can be treated as an offense**

Advice for your study abroad:

- **Do not bring any vapes, pods or e-liquids into Hong Kong**
- **Do not carry devices or accessories in public, even if unused or empty**
- **Expect strict enforcement in transportation hubs and busy areas**
- **Follow your university's rules, which align with city law**

If you have any questions or concerns please contact lisa.folan@universityofgalway.ie