



Learning Abroad Center

Policy on Student Conduct in Education Abroad Opportunities

Rules of Conduct

The University of Minnesota regards all students as responsible citizens who have the same obligations as other citizens to observe the laws of the United States and the local and national laws of the host country. The University does not regard itself or its members as above the law in any way. In addition, as members of an academic community, students assume rights and responsibilities inherent to the nature of that community and bear a responsibility to preserve a collegiate environment that encourages the maximum development of students.

The Board of Regents Policy: *Student Conduct Code* governs the conduct of U of M students (www1.umn.edu/regents/policies/academic/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf). Students who participate in U of M Learning Abroad Center programs are enrolled at the University of Minnesota and are subject to the provisions of the Student Conduct Code to the same extent they would be if studying on a U of M campus. Any student who engages in conduct that violates the Student Conduct Code will be subject to review and sanctions, including, where appropriate, dismissal from the program. This will be done in consultation with the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (OSCAI) and prior violations will be considered. Information regarding students who violate U of M policies will be provided to the students' home schools.

The Student Conduct Code incorporates other rules and policies that students are responsible for knowing and following. Students must review and be familiar with: 1) the Student Conduct Code; 2) this policy; 3) the information on the website (UMabroad.umn.edu/policies); 4) the information in the *Know Before You Go Guide*, as well as the information in any program guide or other regulations that are communicated in writing to the U of M study abroad program participants. Students are responsible for complying with all provisions of the Student Conduct Code and other University policies and regulations. The list below highlights areas of the Student Conduct Code that are of particular concern:

Dishonesty

- Cheating
- Diversion of academic materials needed by other students (*e.g.*, unauthorized removal of library materials)
- Falsification or alteration of academic or personal records, including transcripts, grade reports, application for admission or financial aid, and any other documents required for participation in a U of M supported program
- Forgery or alteration of U of M or host university/partner's documents, identification instruments or legal or government documents, or use of U of M or other documents to defraud
- Plagiarizing
- Damaging or taking another student's coursework, papers, or projects

Harm to others

- Harassment
- Sexual harassment
- Stalking
- Verbal abuse of faculty, staff, students, or representatives from U of M or its partner organizations
- Violence against or physical and mental harm of others

Harm to self

- Self-endangerment, including activities or behavior that could result in personal harm such as frequenting dangerous places, association with criminals, failure to appropriately maintain and monitor personal physical and mental health, or extreme or repeated intoxication

Property or facilities violations

- Damage to U of M program property or property of host universities/partners, residence halls, host families, apartments, facilities used by the U of M, or fellow students
- Obstruction of classes or other program activities
- Theft
- Unauthorized entry to or use of U of M facilities, equipment, or technology or host university/partner's facilities, equipment or technology
- Vandalism at U of M programs or facilities, host universities/partners, U of M located residences, or institutional members' property

Criminal or other behavioral violations

- Alcohol or drug policy violations (See section on U of M Alcohol and Other Drug Policy below)
- Criminal behavior under laws of U.S. or host country
- Disorderly, lewd, indecent, or obscene conduct, gestures, or actions
- Illegal or otherwise inappropriate use of U of M or host university/partner's technology (see *Acceptable Use Policy* at http://www.fpd.finop.umn.edu/groups/ppd/documents/policy/Acceptable_Use.cfm)
- Possession or use of firearms or other dangerous weapons
- Possession or use of fireworks, incendiary devices, or dangerous explosives
- Violation of residential guidelines or rules, including unauthorized overnight guests, excessive noise, rowdy conduct, and drunkenness
- Behavior that results in prolonged or repeated disruption to other students, staff, faculty, host families, etc.

Other

- Failure to comply with directions of U of M or host university/partner officials acting in performance of their duties, including established guidelines, directives, timetables, and instructions
- Unauthorized access to or viewing, copying, or distributing of confidential academic, administrative, or personal records
- Violation of any requirements contained in the release and waiver signed by the student
- Violation of other University policies, rules, or regulations

Alcohol & Other Drug Policy in Education Abroad

The U of M does not encourage the use of alcohol or condone drinking patterns or behaviors that are detrimental to the health and welfare of the individual, the U of M community, or the community at large. Alcohol may be consumed, but not abused, by students who are of legal age in their host countries. Students who choose to consume alcohol do so with the knowledge that they remain responsible for their actions at all times. The U of M prohibits the use of alcohol in any of its education abroad activities, prohibits the use of alcohol that is illegal in the host country, and prohibits the distribution of alcohol to students who are not of legal drinking age in their host countries. The U of M will impose serious sanctions against any student who commits an alcohol infraction, including drunkenness or any abuse of alcohol.

University of Minnesota education abroad programs have a zero tolerance policy for purchase, possession, use, or distribution of any drugs considered to be illicit, illegal, or a controlled substance. Any violations will be grounds for dismissal. Students are further cautioned that the possession of drugs is often dealt with harshly by local, host-country law enforcement and neither the University nor the US Embassy can obtain release from jail.

The use of illegal drugs and the abuse of alcohol are seriously detrimental to one's health and well-being. The U of M urges students involved with either to obtain the necessary assistance from medical professionals and counselors. Please contact the University Counseling and Consulting Services on the UMTC campus or the appropriate office on the coordinate campuses for possible treatment and assistance locations providing alcohol detox and drug rehabilitation, as well as the associated counseling.

Sanctions

Sanctions for violation of the Student Conduct Code or other rules or policies enforceable under the Code vary depending on the circumstances. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, warning, suspension from program-related activities, removal from housing, dismissal from program, disciplinary action on U of M record, denial of participation on future education abroad opportunities, and expulsion from the U of M.

Disciplinary Process

The following process applies to resolve allegations that students participating in an education abroad opportunity that is sponsored by the University of Minnesota have violated the Student Conduct Code or any policy or rule enforceable under the Code (including this policy):

1. The director of the education abroad opportunity or the director's designee will give the student written notice of the alleged violation. A copy of this notice will be shared with the University of Minnesota. The notice should briefly describe the alleged conduct and the policy or rule violation and should notify the student of the opportunity to be heard, as described in the next paragraph.
2. The student will have an opportunity to be heard by the director of the education abroad opportunity or the director's designee before a decision is made and a sanction is issued. In rare cases, action to prevent disruption or harm may be taken before the student has a chance to be heard, although that opportunity must be given to the student as soon as possible thereafter.
3. The director of the education abroad opportunity or the director's designee can consult with the University of Minnesota [e.g., the Learning Abroad Center and the OSCAI on the Twin Cities campus] before imposing such serious sanctions as suspension or removal from the program.
4. The director of the education abroad opportunity or the director's designee, after reviewing the available information, hearing the student's response, and consulting as appropriate, will decide whether the student has committed the violation and will determine the appropriate sanction. The director or designee will provide the student with written notice of the decision and the sanction. The written notice should also inform the student of the right to a hearing before the appropriate campus student disciplinary hearing body [e.g., the Campus Committee on Student Behavior (CCSB) on the Twin Cities campus], described below.
5. A student who is found by the director or designee to have committed a violation has the opportunity to a hearing on the decision and sanction before the campus student disciplinary committee in person, once returning home. A student seeking a hearing must contact the appropriate campus disciplinary officer [at the Twin Cities campus, the OSCAI to request a hearing no later than 30 days after receipt of the written notice of the decision. See OSCAI website at www1.umn.edu/oscai.
6. Students can appeal the CCSB decision if they believe a serious error has occurred in the original proceeding.
7. Students participating in any sponsored or endorsed education abroad opportunities (e.g. sponsored, work, internship, volunteer, service-learning, co-sponsored programs, exchanges, outside programs) are subject to the disciplinary process of the host university/partner that may supersede that of the University of Minnesota. The University will be notified when a warning has been issued and/or when a student is in the process of being dismissed. In the case of outside or non-sponsored programs, the University may not be able to intervene on behalf of the student.