University of Wisconsin Colleges Study Abroad Program
Alcohol Abuse and Misuse and Drug Use Policy

As a student or participant in a University of Wisconsin Colleges Study Abroad Program I understand that I am serving as an ambassador for UW Colleges, the state of Wisconsin, and the United States and I am expected to abide by the laws, regulations, and customs of the host country, community, institution and program and conduct myself in a responsible and mature manner at all times.

**Alcohol Abuse and Misuse**

Although there may be no minimum drinking age in my host country, the customs regarding alcohol use may be very different from the ones in the United States and the state of Wisconsin. I am aware of the following circumstances that might tempt me to misuse alcohol while abroad: a mistaken impression of how alcohol is used in your new surroundings; cheaper costs in some countries; a lower minimum drinking age; more lenient laws against drunkenness; or a desire to experiment or fit in. When visiting a foreign country, common sense and “good judgment” are essential for keeping one self and the group safe.

Clinical studies have proven that excessive alcohol consumption impairs judgment, rendering people incapacitated in any country, foreign or domestic. Unfortunately, American study abroad trips have shown a tendency for students to develop a “party” attitude when U.S. alcohol laws are suddenly removed when traveling to a foreign country. Another alluring tendency of any student is the perception that a study abroad trip is a vacation, contributing to an increased alcohol consumption compared to daily practices back home. Although certain aspects of study abroad are tourist orientated, these trips are academic in nature and encourage students to immerse themselves in the cultural experience, rather than retreating to less constructive activities.

During my orientation I was well informed of program requirements and host country laws regarding alcohol consumption, as well as the consequences for abuse. Most countries – with the exception of those with religious prohibitions – tolerate social drinking. Intoxication, public drunkenness and inebriating behavior, however, are not allowed under any circumstances. **Alcohol abuse and misuse are not acceptable anywhere in the world and will not be tolerated on UW Colleges sponsored study abroad programs.** Violation of local laws and/or UW Colleges regulations or policies related to alcohol misuse and abuse may result in (i) immediate dismissal from the program including required immediate return home your own cost; (ii) academic withdrawal from the college for the semester in progress; and (iii) disciplinary action upon return to campus.

I understand that if another student becomes incapacitated due to alcohol overuse, or if he/she is in need of medical attention, I am strongly encouraged to contact a local emergency medical service, faculty leader or program staff, in order to protect the health and well-being of the affected student. The individual needing medical attention may be referred for assistance to address issues of chemical use/abuse. I understand that all peers are encouraged to make the responsible choice to notify program or emergency personnel quickly. I am aware that if I make the call I will not be subject to disciplinary action.

Alcohol misuse is defined as any use that is harmful or potentially harmful to self or others. Alcohol abuse is planned, systematic misuse of alcohol. Alcohol misuse is present when:

1. A student misses any scheduled event because of the effects of alcohol consumption;
2. A student becomes ill due to the effects of alcohol consumption;
3. A student is disrespectful of others sharing the same housing, and congregates with loud groups for social purposes;
4. A student engages in inappropriate behavior toward other individuals such as sexual advances, that is the result of alcohol consumption;
5. A student engages in destructive behavior toward property that is the result of alcohol consumption;
6. A student does not abide by the laws of the country in which he or she is staying;
7. A student engages in behavior that causes embarrassment to the other members of the group, the program leader(s) or the in-country host(s) as a result of alcohol consumption;
8. Students in a group facilitate, encourage, or ignore a fellow student who is misusing or abusing alcohol; or
9. Students transport quantities of alcohol to program sites with the intent of sharing the alcohol with members of the group.
Drug Use
(Adapted from the U.S. Department of State's Travel Warning on Drugs Abroad)

The UW Colleges has a zero-tolerance policy regarding the possession, use, manufacture, production,
sale, exchange or distribution of illegal drugs by students participating in UW Colleges study abroad
programs. Violation of this policy may result in (i) immediate dismissal from the program; (ii) academic
withdrawal from the University for the semester in progress; and (iii) disciplinary action upon return to
campus.

NOTE: Each year 2,500 Americans are arrested overseas. One third of the arrests are on drug-related charges.
If you choose to use illegal drugs abroad, there is very little that anyone at the UW Colleges or the US
Government can do to help you if you are arrested. You are operating under the laws of the host country and
the regulations of the local institution. Neither the U.S. government nor the home institution will be able to
secure your release should you be arrested. It is your responsibility to know the drug laws of a foreign country
before you go. Some laws may be applied more strictly to foreigners than to local citizens; therefore, don’t
assume that just because local people are using drugs, it’s acceptable for you to use drugs.

Here is what the U.S. Consulate CAN and CANNOT do if you were arrested on drug charges:

The U.S. Consular Office CAN:
- visit you in jail after being notified of your arrest
- give you a list of local attorneys (The U.S. Government cannot assume responsibility for the
  professional ability or integrity of these individuals or recommend a particular attorney)
- notify your family and/or friends and relay requests for money or other aid - but only with your
  authorization
- intercede with local authorities to make sure that your rights under local laws are fully observed and that
  you are treated humanely, according to internationally accepted standards
- protest mistreatment or abuse to the appropriate authorities

The U.S. Consular Office CANNOT:
- demand your immediate release or get you out of jail or the country
- represent you at trial or give legal counsel
- pay legal fees and/or fines with U.S. government funds

If you are caught using illegal drugs by a UW Colleges faculty or staff leader, you may be immediately dismissed
from the UW Colleges sponsored study abroad program. If you are caught by local authorities it could mean:
- interrogation and delays before trial, including mistreatment and solitary confinement for up to one year
  under very primitive conditions
- lengthy trials conducted in a foreign language, with delays and postponements
- weeks, months or life in prison (some places include hard labor, heavy fines, and/or lashings), if found
  guilty
- death penalty in a growing number of countries (e.g., Malaysia, Pakistan, and Turkey)

Although drug laws vary from country to country, it is important to realize before you make the mistake of getting
involved with drugs that foreign countries do not react lightly to drug offenders. In some countries, anyone who
is caught with even a very small quantity for personal use may be tried and receive the same sentence as the
large-scale trafficker.

A few words to the wise concerning drug use...
Once you leave the United States you are not covered by U.S. laws and constitutional rights.
Bail is not granted in many countries when drugs are involved.
The burden of proof in many countries is on the accused to prove his/her innocence.
In some countries, evidence obtained illegally by local authorities may be admissible in court.
Few countries offer drug offenders jury trials or even require the prisoner's presence at trial.
Many countries have mandatory prison sentences of seven years to life without the possibility of parole.
Disciplinary Measures
These disciplinary steps are intended for behavioral misconduct that may or may not be attributed to alcohol consumption by students. Rules and regulations applied to each Study Abroad program reflect the UW Colleges Student Rights Regulations. When any violations occur, the terms of continuing participation in the Study Abroad program and/or UW Colleges campus courses and activities will be reviewed by the UW Colleges Administration and treated accordingly. Consumption of alcohol that causes a student to miss class or be unable to participate fully in a classroom activity, leaving the group alone while drinking, loud, disruptive, or offensive behavior according to US or local norms is considered alcohol misuse and may result in Verbal Warning to the student by the Trip Leader followed by notification to all faculty and staff attending the program, and a reduced or no credit for the day. A written description of the incident will be submitted to the UW Colleges Study Abroad Coordinator.

A second violation will result in a Written Warning that will include a description of the incident from staff and/or peer perspectives, the negative effect on self, others, program, and/or host country, prudent and reasonable disciplinary actions relevant to safety and well-being of the individual or group effected by the misconduct, and notation of program policy violation.

An immediate Trip Dismissal will be issued upon three documented warnings, misconduct that jeopardizes the safety and well-being of self and/or the group. An immediate Trip Dismissal will be issued for more serious degrees of alcohol abuse: loss of consciousness, destruction of property, abusive behavior, endangerment of self or of others, assault, sexual misconduct, threatening and intimidating behavior, admission to a hospital or emergency room, treatment for alcohol poisoning, incarceration, or any instance of these circumstances or other circumstances of equivalent severity. At this point, the Dismissal Action Process will be initiated as outlined in the Dismissal Action Plan. Once dismissed, a student can face disciplinary action on the UW Colleges Campus, possible criminal charges in the U.S., loss of academic credit, and/or suspension or expulsion from the UW Colleges. A copy of the written Dismissal Report will be distributed to the student, the UW Colleges Study Abroad Coordinator and the Committee, the parent / guardians, and Emergency Contact Person as listed on the Study Abroad Application Packet.

I have read the UW Colleges Alcohol and Drug Policies and Disciplinary Measures and agree to comply and support these regulations with full understanding that disciplinary actions can be made against me should I choose to violate this contract including possible dismissal from the program including required immediate return home at my own cost; academic withdrawal from the college for the semester in progress; and disciplinary action upon return to campus. I have been informed of the possible hazards and legal consequences of alcohol and drug consumption and the tendency for some students to engage in such behavior during international or domestic academic traveling programs.

Student Signature: ______________________________________________ Date: ____________

Faculty Witness: ______________________________________________ Date: ____________