

Code of Conduct for Plus 3 Participants

The Plus 3 study abroad program provides students with an amazing opportunity to develop intellectually, professionally, and personally through both formal and experiential learning in another cultural context. As guests of a foreign country, students should be aware of a number of behavioral responsibilities and expectations. In addition to adhering to all policies outlined in the *University of Pittsburgh Student Code of Conduct and Judicial Procedures*, students must observe the laws and customs of the country in which they are studying abroad as well as the disciplinary and academic regulations in effect at the host institution. Be aware that many of the legal protections taken for granted in the United States are left behind when traveling abroad. The principle of “innocent until proven guilty” is not necessarily a tenet of a legal system when abroad. Any actions that jeopardize the health/safety of yourself or others will not be tolerated and will be dealt with harshly. Behavior that is disruptive to the Program or other participants (examples follow) will also bring about corrective/punitive consequences ranging from verbal warnings to involuntary removal from the Program. Please keep in mind at all times that you are a representative of the University of Pittsburgh and the United States in general. Your actions abroad have a profound effect on how the University of Pittsburgh and Americans as a whole are perceived. Poor behavior will have a detrimental effect on the school’s relationships with other countries and host institutions and may limit opportunities for students in the future.

The following are examples of behaviors which will subject the participant to discipline and penalties:

Illegal Drugs: The use or possession of illegal drugs during the program or being knowingly present in instances of use or possession of illegal drugs during the program is cause for immediate dismissal from the program without refund.

Alcohol Abuse and Related Misconduct: Some students who are under the age of 21 view their study abroad experience as a great opportunity to “legally” drink for the first time and often drink excessively. If you do choose to drink, do so responsibly and keep these things in mind:

- Intoxication is the most common cause of inappropriate behavior. Excessive drinking may result in fights, injuries, arrests, risky sexual activity, rape, robbery, unintended pregnancy, STD’s, long-term alcohol addiction, or even death. In addition, you may lose the respect of friends, classmates, faculty, and locals.
- You are ALWAYS responsible (and will be held accountable) for your behavior, whether you are intoxicated or not.
- Most local police officers tend to judge the “bad behavior” of foreigners more harshly than that of locals.

- Unprofessional behavior during lectures and site visits will not be tolerated. This includes fainting, throwing up, falling asleep, and other symptoms generally associated with hangovers.

Destruction of Facilities: Students will be held responsible for any damage to property, including hotels, residences, facilities of the host institution, and means of transportation. In addition, students are responsible for any fines that are incurred during their stay, such as a hotel fine for trashing a room.

Compromising Sexual Situations: In the past, students have engaged in some extremely dangerous behaviors such as bringing strangers into their bedrooms or going home with strangers. Be cautious in your interactions with people and exercise some restraint.

Gambling: Use caution and judgment and avoid combining gambling with the consumption of alcohol.

Other Violations: It takes a multitude of people to provide students with a rewarding study abroad experience. Please be respectful and courteous of everyone with whom the program brings you in contact. Do not disturb others in the hotel/houses or act disorderly in public. Do not be rude to classmates, faculty, program organizers, or company hosts. Be punctual and act professionally during lectures and company visits.

Disciplinary Procedures:

Although most inappropriate behaviors may only merit warnings, harsher punishments will be levied at the faculty's discretion after taking into consideration the severity and recurrence of the violation. (A detailed description of actions meriting discipline and the procedures to be taken is available in a separate document.)

Warnings: (Warnings will have a detrimental effect on a student's grade)

- **Verbal** – Issued for disruptive and unprofessional behavior.
- **Written** – Issued for substantially disruptive and or potentially unsafe behaviors or if a verbal warning has already been issued to the student. **A student's parents may be notified if a written warning is issued.**

Grade Reductions: Poor behavior is grounds for a severe reduction of the individual components of a student's grade. A verbal warning will negatively affect a student's grade by two to three percentage points. A written warning, or several verbal warnings, will drop a student's grade by a full letter or ten percentage points.

Loss of Scholarship: Certain study abroad scholarships may be contingent on a student meeting behavioral expectations while abroad. Parents will be notified if a scholarship is lost due to inappropriate behavior.

Loss of Future Study Abroad Opportunities: Poor behavior during the Plus 3 program may result in the loss of a student's future study abroad privileges while at the University of Pittsburgh.

Involuntary Withdrawal: Extreme violations of the code of conduct such as the possession of illegal drugs or excessive alcohol abuse will result in a student being sent home immediately. The return passage and all other costs associated with a participant's involuntary withdrawal from the program shall be the sole and exclusive financial responsibility of the student concerned.

Continued Disciplinary Action after a Student Returns: Severe breaches of the Code of Conduct may result in punishments levied by the University of Pittsburgh outside of the Plus 3 program. Certain offenses are subject to *Judicial Procedures* and may affect a student's permanent record. A student may be forced to take P.E.A.R. classes in the semester following the Plus 3 trip if alcohol abuse is the cause of disciplinary action.

Student Appeals: If a student believes that they have been wrongly disciplined, students will have a chance to explain the situation and appeal to faculty to possibly re-evaluate the disciplinary action by following the procedure outlined in the university's judicial code.

Common Sense and Safety Tips:

- Avoiding intoxication will greatly reduce the chances of having problems abroad
- Never ride with someone who has been drinking
- Always travel in groups
- Leave your contact info and let people know where you are going
- Avoid isolated or poorly lit places at night
- Avoid high-crime neighborhoods
- Learn local laws and customs and be aware of your surroundings
- Learn how to summon help in case of an emergency
- Carry only the cash or credit cards that you'll need
- Keep a low profile in demeanor and dress

Keep in mind that this is an experience of a lifetime and that no one should let their behavior detract from the experience.