



Saint Martin's  
UNIVERSITY

## Student Conduct on University-Sponsored Trips

As outlined in Article II ("Jurisdiction") of the university's Student Code of Conduct, all students taking part in university-sponsored

activities or trips are responsible for adhering to the policies and procedures included in the Student Handbook and other official documents and publications. Specific behavioral expectations of students traveling and/or studying abroad or domestically are outlined in the Code of Conduct, but can be summarized by reiterating its bottom line: "At Saint Martin's University, it is expected that students will behave in a manner that is most conducive to the greatest possible development, growth, and well-being of the individual and of the academic community. Actions detrimental to the mission of the university and to the legitimate activities of the academic community are in violation of the Code of Conduct and will be subject to the disciplinary process (2013-2014 Student Handbook, page 3)."

Although cultures, customs, values, policies, and laws may differ in foreign countries or in different communities, the expectations of Saint Martin's students do not. As representatives of our Catholic, Benedictine community and role models to their peers, our students are rightly held to a higher standard of behavior than required by other universities, institutions, or even state or local law. Should the expectations of the host country, institution, or agency be more stringent than those of Saint Martin's University, however, SMU students must abide by them, as well. In short, Saint Martin's students are responsible for behaving in a manner that reflects positively on the university whether at home or abroad, and those who fail to do so may be held accountable through SMU's student conduct process, that of a host institution, the Office of International Programs and Development, local law enforcement agencies, or a combination of the four.

Students whose behavior significantly detracts from the educational purposes of the trip or has the potential to threaten the physical or emotional wellbeing of other participants may be sent home at the request of the host institution or agency or at the discretion of the group chaperone(s), the leadership of the sponsoring office, the Dean of Student Affairs, or the Coordinator of Student Conduct, potentially at the student's expense. As participation in off-campus programs is a privilege and not a right, determinations of this nature may be made in advance of a conduct hearing if there is sufficient evidence for a reasonable person to conclude that a student's continued participation would put themselves or others at risk or threaten the integrity of the program or university.

While it is impossible to provide students with an all-inclusive list of inappropriate and/or prohibited behavior, Article III ("Proscribed Conduct") of the Student Code of Conduct offers a framework for those participating in university-sponsored trips and the following guidelines should serve to further elucidate the university's expectations. Egregious disregard for any of the following expectations may be grounds for disciplinary action, including the student's exclusion from the remainder of the trip or activity.

**Attendance and Free Time:** All students participating in university-sponsored trips are expected to attend all functions associated with the program, including, but not limited to, meetings, meals, social gatherings, classes, and tours. Those who are routinely absent from or late to such activities may be sent home, held accountable through the university's disciplinary process, and/or required to reimburse the university for fees, fares, meals, hotel costs, etc. Students are encouraged to use their free time to safely and responsibly explore their surroundings, but such activities should not limit the students' availability

or adversely affect the program itinerary. In addition, all students are expected to adhere to their group leaders' expectations with regard to curfews, meeting times, transportation, group excursions, and the like.

**Alcohol and Other Drugs:** While domestic and international laws do vary with respect to alcohol and other drugs (marijuana, in particular), students must adhere to both local laws and their group leaders' expectations when and where use of alcohol or other drugs is permitted. Regardless of whether the use of controlled substances is allowed by law, drug use (including misuse of prescription drugs and use of medicinal marijuana and/or marijuana byproducts) is prohibited and Saint Martin's students are to practice moderation when drinking and behave in a manner consistent with the values of their home institution. Students who abuse alcohol and/or other drugs, encourage others to do so, provide them to others unlawfully, or who behave inappropriately due to intoxication may be documented and held accountable through the student conduct process. Those whose behavior puts themselves or others in jeopardy or reflects a conscious disregard of the university's expectations may be sent home at their own expense.

**Sexual Assault and Harassment:** Guided by the recent reauthorization of the federal government's Violence Against Women Act, Saint Martin's University will not tolerate sexual assault, harassment, stalking, domestic violence, or dating violence at home or abroad and will take swift and decisive action in responding to allegations of this nature. Students who believe they have experienced sexual assault, harassment, stalking, domestic violence, or dating violence are encouraged to report such behavior immediately to group leaders who will follow guidelines included in the university's sexual assault and harassment policy as printed in the Student Handbook. In consultation with the Dean of Student Affairs, Title IX Coordinator, or Coordinator of Student Conduct, group leaders will assist students in documenting the incident, ensuring their safety, exploring their options for resolving the complaint, and seeking out medical attention or counseling services.

**Harassment and Bullying:** As defined in the Student Code of Conduct, harassment may be direct and explicit or indirect and subtle. Words, gestures, graphics, and online activity may be construed as harassing if they target a particular individual or create a hostile or offensive environment for a group of people. Conduct that could reasonably be perceived as demeaning, offensive, intimidating, or threatening may require immediate staff intervention and be referred to the university for review through the disciplinary process.

**Disorderly Conduct, Theft, and Vandalism:** Students traveling or studying outside of Saint Martin's University should behave as though they were on campus and treat their surroundings and others' belongings accordingly. Consistent with our Benedictine values, SMU students are to practice respect for persons and serve as responsible stewards of facilities and property. Students who disrupt the learning environment, disturb others, steal, or vandalize property while on a university-sponsored trip will be held accountable through the university conduct process and may be required to pay restitution to those affected by their behavior.

**Compliance:** Traveling abroad or domestically can be challenging, stressful, confusing, and at times, even dangerous. Consequently, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all participants, group leaders and chaperones will establish their own guidelines and expectations for the students for whom they are responsible. These may differ depending on the circumstances and may include curfews, travel restrictions, buddy systems, rules related to alcohol consumption, room assignments, and the like. Participants are expected to follow their group leaders' directions and adhere to their expectations

without question or complaint, regardless of the permissiveness of local laws or university policy. Those who ignore or challenge their chaperones' instructions may be found responsible for refusal to comply with reasonable requests of university officials (*Student Handbook*, Article III, Section 11).

**Sensitivity to Cultural Differences:** As discussed elsewhere, values and customs differ across cultures and SMU students are expected to make a good faith effort to understand, appreciate, and even embrace these differences. While acknowledging that some students will be challenged by new experiences, the university maintains that students who willingly take advantage of travel opportunities should participate in expressions and demonstrations of the host's culture and traditions to a reasonable extent. This may include taking part in song, dance, cuisine, service, or conversation, and students should be mindful of the hosts' hospitality and cautious not to offend them by refusing their generosity. Students with phobias, dietary restrictions, disabilities, or other conditions that may inhibit their interactions should discuss these with their group leaders prior to departure.