

# **STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

## **for**

### **STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM**

Please read the following information regarding your rights, responsibilities and expectations on a study abroad program as a representative of the College of Mount Saint Vincent

## **College of Mount Saint Vincent Terms of Participation for Students Studying Abroad**

### **STUDENTS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which CMSV student rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at the College of Mount Saint Vincent but also as a citizen of this country.

Students participating in College of Mount Saint Vincent Study Abroad Programs are responsible for complying with all standards of student conduct specified in the College of Mount Saint Vincent Student Handbook. The handbook may be found at <http://www.mountsaintvincent.edu/4471.htm>

It should be noted that study abroad programs are considered college-sponsored activities and, as such, participating students are responsible for observing the same rules as students attending classes on campus.

### **Students' Rights**

#### Article I

A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no university rule or regulation or administrative policy that in any way abridges rights of freedom, speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.

#### Article II

Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the university, free from any form of illegal discrimination and without regard to any subgroup, classification or stereotype.

#### Article III

A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law and this will be observed by students and college authorities alike.

#### Article IV

Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of college regulations shall be assured a fair and impartial review process, as specified in the CMSV Student Handbook.

### **Students' Responsibilities**

#### Article I

A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and administration.

#### Article II

A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published college regulations and to comply with them and the laws of the land.

Article III A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire college community.

#### Article IV

A student has the responsibility to recognize the college's obligation to provide an environment for learning.

#### Article V

By accepting participation in a College of Mount Saint Vincent IDS Program, you agree to be responsible for your own health, safety and behavior while participating in the program. In addition, you are committed to observe and

obey College of Mount Saint Vincent Student Rules, the laws of New York State and the United States of America, as well as the laws of the host country and the host institution.

### **DISMISSAL FROM THE PROGRAM and PROCEDURES**

Violations of any of the conditions set forth by the **College of Mount Saint Vincent** may result in expulsion from the program and forfeiture of program fees. If for just reason the faculty in-country and/or program coordinator considers you to be continually disruptive, you may be dismissed from the program.

Prior to taking action which adversely impacts a student's participation or status in the Study Abroad Program:

1. The program coordinator must provide notice to the student about the nature of the problem;
2. Give the student an opportunity to respond (explain) and correct the problem;
3. Communicate the consequences of failing to correct the problem, i.e. dismissal from the program.

### **DISMISSAL FROM THE PROGRAM**

You may be dismissed from the program for a violation of these Terms of Participation, conditions set forth in the Student Handbook, College of Mount Saint Vincent Student Rules and/or the laws of the United States and your host country/institution.

If for any reason the faculty coordinators consider you to be continually disruptive, or in violation of university rules and regulations, as listed in College of Mount Saint Vincent Student Rules, disciplinary action will be taken and you may be dismissed from the program. As outlined above, you may be required to terminate your study abroad semester and return home as instructed by the program coordinator. The College of Mount Saint Vincent will assume no responsibility for finding the student legal counsel. The program coordinator should contact the College of Mount Saint Vincent and the U. S. Embassy, if applicable.

### **HEALTH**

Before you travel, you should check with your doctor for recommendations concerning inoculations that may be necessary or just suggested for any countries you may visit.

If you are taking prescription medication, be sure you have an ample supply for your entire stay and make sure that all medication (including over the counter drugs) is clearly labeled and in its original container. It is also wise to carry a copy of the original prescription with you if you are on prescription medication. If you have any chronic medical conditions such as allergies, eating disorders, hypo-glycemia, asthma, motion or altitude sickness, migraines, diabetes, physical limitations such as visual or hearing impairments, etc., which require special medication or continuing medical treatment, you need to check with your doctor to ensure that your special needs can be met while you are away. You should submit to your program coordinator a letter from your doctor stating that your needs can be met, and how.

If you have any psychological or emotional concerns which might affect your or others' well-being, it is your responsibility to inform the involved parties (roommates, faculty members, program coordinators) before you depart on the program to prevent any interference with the program. You should also consult the Office of International Student Services regarding the feasibility of your needs being met while Abroad.

### **INTERNATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE**

Students studying abroad through programs offered by members of a consortium (i.e. CCIS) will be enrolled in health insurance by that consortium. CMSV will provide insurance for students traveling abroad to St. Mary's and information about benefits will be provided to students during the Pre-Departure phase of the program. Students who are traveling internationally before or after the program dates must take responsibility for obtaining insurance through a provider of their choosing.

### **SEXUAL CONDUCT**

As always, you must be aware of your risk of sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS. Complete abstinence from high-risk behavior is of course your best protection and is recommended, but as an adult it is your responsibility to protect yourself in whatever activities you choose. If you might for any reason need condoms or other products, purchase them before you leave the U.S. Availability and quality vary from country to country. Be aware that some persons suddenly living in a new environment such as a study abroad experience may feel freer to experiment with their sexuality in a variety of avenues. Your morals and values are up to you to determine. However, remember that the program will eventually be over and you will need to cope with whatever decisions you have made upon your return. You should also remember that you are responsible to the Student Conduct Code, as contained in the College of Mount Saint Vincent Student Handbook. Some host countries require medical testing,

including an AIDS test, upon arrival in the country. By participating in a study abroad program, and signing this form, you agree to comply with these requirements.

### **UNWANTED SEXUAL BEHAVIOR/CONDUCT**

Unwanted sexual behavior/conduct may include, but is not limited to, inappropriate touching or fondling, against the person's will. Don't allow cultural differences to dictate what is acceptable to you. Regardless of the country or culture you are in, when you are not comfortable with an activity, you have the right to say so and end the activity.

### **SEXUAL ASSAULT**

Rape and other forms of sexual assault are non-consensual sexual acts involving force, manipulation or coercion. The use of alcohol or other drugs to sedate a victim are considered criminal offenses in many countries, including the U.S. Both men and women can be victims and perpetrators of sexual assault. Students should refer to the College of Mount Saint Vincent Student Handbook for information on rules related to sexual assault and sexual abuse.

### **DISCRIMINATION and HARASSMENT**

It is inherent in almost any change of culture such as you are approaching that you will be noticed as different and foreign, and perhaps singled out and possibly derided by local persons. The color of your skin, hair, and the way you dress, or any variety of things will draw such attention. Harassment in the classroom or in any way related to your College of Mount Saint Vincent Study Abroad Program is prohibited. Harassment includes conduct (physical, verbal, graphic, written or electronic) that is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent so as to threaten an individual or limit the ability of an individual to work, study, or participate in the activities of the university which includes study abroad. Such conduct also includes but is not limited to sexual harassment, racial and ethnic harassment, stalking and retaliation. It is important to remember that expectations for your behavior, and the behavior of Study Abroad faculty, program coordinator, etc. are based on College of Mount Saint Vincent Student Rules and policies, not the practices of your host country. In the event you are experiencing harassment, you should report it to the program coordinator and the Director of International Student Services.

### **ALCOHOL**

Students who choose to drink alcohol should be aware that laws about the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages vary in different countries and in some, such as Muslim countries, alcoholic beverages are illegal. You should also be aware that public intoxication is not understood or tolerated in most cultures. Remember, if you are arrested, you may be subject to dismissal from the program. Any alcohol-related disruptive behavior could also result in dismissal from the Study Abroad program. Please remember that you are an ambassador of the United States and the College of Mount Saint Vincent and the impressions you make will be lasting. Last, and most important, inebriation can seriously compromise your personal safety by making you seem open to unwanted intimate advances and an easy target for theft or physical assault.

### **ILLEGAL DRUGS**

NEVER travel with marijuana or any other illegal drug. The College of Mount Saint Vincent can assume NO responsibility for any student apprehended for possession of drugs. Bear in mind that laws concerning drugs are much more severe in many other countries than in the United States, and even though you are a U.S. citizen, you are still subject to the laws of your host country. CMSV will not tolerate use or possession of illegal drugs. Any student caught with illegal drugs may be subject to immediate dismissal from the study abroad program.

### **PERSONAL SAFETY**

The most important rule to remember is to USE YOUR COMMON SENSE. If you wouldn't do something in an unfamiliar city in the United States, then be cautious about doing it elsewhere. In general, the best way for you to learn what is or isn't safe is to watch and learn what the "natives" of a particular area are doing. When you are uncertain, ask questions of resource persons such as personnel at the host institutions, travel agencies, and tourist offices.

Be watchful and careful of your personal belongings. Pickpockets can be extremely subtle--they even use dancing children to distract you. Some have been known to use chloroform on tourists sleeping in trains, so beware at all times. Don't ever carry large amounts of cash, and be careful where you put your passport and airline ticket. There are passport and travelers check holders available which you can wear on your body around your neck or waist; these are a good investment. It is a good idea to photocopy the important pages of your passport and keep them in a safe place (perhaps exchange with another traveler) should you need to replace your passport.

Generally, you want to do your best not to look like an unaware tourist. Those people who are blatantly confused-looking or lost are likely candidates for pickpockets. It is a good idea, then, to be familiar with the major streets of a

city before you set out. Then you can keep your bearings in relation to those major thoroughfares. Perhaps the best safeguard is not to have any valuables showing. If you wear expensive jewelry, not only does it become a target for theft, but pickpockets assume that you will carry lots of cash if you can afford expensive jewelry. Even though robbery is not rampant abroad, the chances of your losing something to a pickpocket are increased overseas because you are the best target for thieves--you are unfamiliar with the geography, customs, and people abroad. So if you don't feel you want to have a personal item stolen, do not bring it along if at all possible.

### **CUSTOMS**

Before you leave, check to be sure that you are not violating any customs regulations. There are often limits to how much currency you can bring into and out of a country, and to the dollar value of undeclared goods you can bring home. Also, it's illegal to transport certain items (plants, food) across borders. It's your responsibility to be sure you are in keeping with customs rulings in each country you that visit.

### **MISCELLANEOUS CONCERNS**

Before you plan any side trips on your spare time, you should check with someone knowledgeable to be sure that you take all necessary safety precautions. It is always best to travel with at least one companion. Be sure you let the program coordinator know where you plan to be and when you will return. Above all, remember that YOU ARE A RESPONSIBLE ADULT and will be expected to behave as such.

### **TRAVEL WARNINGS**

If you are in your host country when a travel warning for that country is issued, you will be required to leave the country as soon as feasibly possible. You have the responsibility to contact the US State Department (888-407-4747) or access this website to check the status of your destination country:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>

### **SAFETY MEASURES**

Both the U.S. State Department and international authorities have indicated that precautions should be followed as in all times of international tension. Because of this, all students participating in a College of Mount Saint Vincent Study abroad program should follow precautions outlined in U.S. State Department Worldwide Cautions and Public Announcements (<http://travel.state.gov>). In addition, we recommend that all:

1. Students should carry all emergency numbers (provided) with them. It is highly recommended that students travel with someone who has a cell phone.
2. Students should carry the telephone numbers of U.S. embassies or consulates in the countries to which they travel.
3. Students should leave their itinerary, and contact information, with the program coordinator if they leave for individual excursions not related to the program.
4. Students should avoid and not linger at places where Americans might frequent or at large crowded events in major cities (ex. Oktoberfest, U.S. fast food chains, etc.).
5. Students should avoid wearing shirts with obvious American logos.
6. Students should call the program coordinator if they are delayed in returning from traveling.
7. Students should report any unusual person, event, or object to the authorities.
8. Students should keep their families informed of their travel plans.
9. Students should consult the College of Mount Saint Vincent Office of International Student Services or the State Department website if they have any questions regarding the status of the country they wish to visit.
10. **Emergency Phone** The College of Mount Saint Vincent's 24 hour emergency phone number, 718-405-3434, is available to all students while abroad. Upon calling this number, students and faculty will be able to speak to a member of the CMSV staff who can assist them in responding to the emergency. This assistance may come in the form of referrals to resources, such as the Health Insurance company or a U.S. Embassy or Consulate, or notifying appropriate campus constituents so that an appropriate response can be coordinated.

**MEDIA RELEASE**

The student hereby grants the Office of International Student Services at the College of Mount Saint Vincent express permission to use submitted images, recordings, podcasts, videos, pictures featuring the student or any other material for use and redistribution in their study abroad public relations material, including displaying on the study abroad website. Students also grant permission for any pictures taken during the study abroad program to be used by the College of Mount Saint Vincent in promotional materials. You acknowledge that all submitted media and materials will become property of the College of Mount Saint Vincent and the Office of International Student Services.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

I have read and agree to abide by the contents of this document. I understand that I am responsible for my own health, safety, welfare and behavior on this program as well as some meals and personal expenses. I also understand that, ultimately, it is my responsibility to take precautions about my own safety, especially when traveling on independent trips not associated with the College of Mount Saint Vincent study abroad program.

I release, quit claim, discharge, and waive any and all claims I might have arising out of participation in this program against the College of Mount Saint Vincent, its officers, agents, or employees. I understand that by accepting admission to this program I am making a commitment to observe and obey the rules, regulations, and policies of the College of Mount Saint Vincent Student Rules, the laws of New York State and the United States of America, as well as the laws of the host country and/or institution. I also understand that any violation of the above may result in immediate expulsion from the program and forfeiture of program fees.

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Student Signature

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Date