

Approved: February 27, 2019 by TCU Cabinet, March 6, 2019 by Provost Council, Edits for clarification approved by Kathy Cavins-Tull on April 22, 2019

Review Frequency: Annually*

**Consult with the Center for International Studies to ensure that this document represents the most current version.*

ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY – International Travel

The following does not supplant TCU's Alcohol policy (www.studenthandbook.tcu.edu), rather it clarifies how this policy applies to students participating in TCU programs and sponsored activities while abroad. Note that when programs, activities or events involve both undergraduate and graduate students, the guidelines for undergraduate students apply regardless of student classification.

Expectations of University Students

- While abroad, University students are expected to know and abide by the legal drinking age of the country in which they are located. In the case where a local host organization does not allow for alcohol consumption while participating in their programming, University students are expected to further adhere to the host organization's policies and/or code of conduct irrespective of the legal age for alcohol consumption in that location.
- Alcohol misuse will not be tolerated. Alcohol misuse and any behavior deemed disruptive that interferes with the rights of students due to alcohol consumption will lead to disciplinary action as prescribed under the TCU student code of conduct. Regardless of the legality, this includes instances in which the consumption of alcohol violates a relevant code of conduct, impairs your ability to meet program participation expectations, threatens the health and safety of yourself or others, and/or causes harm to the relationship that TCU has established with organizations in the host country. In such cases, you may be subject to a violation of the TCU Code of Conduct and subject to sanctions, including dismissal from a TCU sponsored activity abroad.

Alcohol misuse is present when, due to the effects of alcohol consumption:

- A student misses any scheduled event.
 - A student becomes ill.
 - A student is disrespectful of others sharing the same or neighboring housing.
 - A student engages in inappropriate behavior towards another individual.
 - A student cannot walk or function normally without assistance.
 - A student violates local law.
 - A student engages in activities that causes embarrassment to other students, the faculty member(s) or the in-country hosts.
 - A student engages in behavior that presents a health or safety concern for others.
 - A student engages in destructive behavior toward property.
- Other behaviors that will lead to disciplinary action include:
 - encouraging a fellow student to overconsume or, otherwise misuse alcohol.
 - ignoring or failing to assist a student whom you are aware has misused alcohol. (Referring the situation to a University Representative or other responsible party, in a timely manner constitutes assistance in this context.)
 - transporting quantities of alcohol to a program site or housing facility with the intent of sharing with other program members.

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Expectations of Faculty, Administrators, Program Directors, and Agents of the University (Collectively, “University Representatives”)

- University Representatives are prohibited from providing alcohol to, or purchasing alcohol for, undergraduate students participating in TCU programs abroad. Permission must be obtained in advance to provide or purchase alcohol for graduate students, over the age of 21, participating in a TCU sponsored activity or program. [See guidance below (“Permissions”) that details the process for obtaining permission for the purpose of this policy.]
- TCU sponsored/organized events or activities should not include an opportunity for undergraduate students to individually purchase or consume alcohol. If an opportunity exists to purchase alcohol at a public venue used as part of a TCU program, students will be instructed that alcohol consumption will not be permitted. Permission must be obtained to allow for alcohol to be individually purchased or consumed by graduate student participants over the age of 21, participating in an event associated with a TCU sponsored activity or event abroad. [See guidance below (“Permissions”) that details the process for obtaining permission for the purpose of this policy.]
- Exception to the policy above: A University Representative may request permission to purchase and serve alcohol in conjunction with an educational or cultural activity with undergraduate student participants, such as a visit to a winery or brewery. Permission may be granted on a very limited basis. Program leaders must clearly communicate that consuming alcohol is not an expectation of the program and will not impact participant assessment. It is expected that all participants will be of legal drinking age in the country in which the event occurs, and special care should be taken to limit the amount of alcohol served. Non-alcoholic beverages must also be made available. [See guidance below (“Permissions”) that details the process for obtaining permission for the purpose of this policy.]
- **Permissions:** For the purpose of all policies in this document, *permission* refers to prior written approval obtained from the relevant administrators and according to the processes detailed on the Center for International Studies website. Relevant administrators include the department chair/supervisor, Dean/unit head, and the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs.
- University Representatives traveling abroad with undergraduate students may not consume alcohol in the company of undergraduate students. Similarly, University Representatives must actively avoid situations in which students are consuming alcohol. In the case that a faculty member becomes aware of a student violating study abroad alcohol guidelines, it is the responsibility of the faculty to intervene to end the violation(s).

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- In choosing facilities to provide meal services to students, University Representatives should avoid facilities that allow unlimited service of alcoholic beverages included in the price of the meal. In addition, to the extent possible, University Representatives should clarify to the facility that pre-paid meals do not include alcohol.

University Representatives should actively discourage excessive consumption of alcohol, and should understand that they are in a position of authority and responsibility, and must be capable of addressing an emergency should it arise. The University recognizes that there may be instances in which students indulge in excessive drinking in spite of program rules. In such cases it might be necessary to intervene and stay with a student at risk. First and foremost, University Representatives should ensure student safety above all else.

DRUG POLICY

See TCU's Drug Policy (www.studenthandbook.tcu.edu)

All University policies regarding illegal substances (i.e. substances illegal in the United States) or drug paraphernalia apply to University Representatives or students traveling abroad on a TCU sponsored event or activity. To the extent additional substances are deemed illegal under local law (abroad location), these substances are also prohibited under University policy. This includes the misuse or sharing of prescription drugs. It is the responsibility of the traveler to understand the local law pertaining to illegal substances. In addition, travelers should be aware that criminal penalties for the possession, use, or distribution of illegal drugs may be more severe in the host country relative to those in the United States.

POLICY REVIEW AND PROCESS FOR UPDATES

As part of the University's commitment to conforming to best practices in health and safety, and in maintaining and enhancing the quality of its programs abroad, all policies included in the main body of this document will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Center for International Studies. Alterations to this policy are subject to approval by the Provost Council and the Cabinet, with the exception that minor edits intended only to improve clarity may be made with the approval of the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs.