

ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY

While on international programs students are bound by the laws of the country in which they are studying in terms of alcohol consumption, but the use of other drugs or other illegal substances will not be tolerated. Students who choose to consume alcohol will be held to the standards of responsible behavior described in the College's Alcohol and Drug Policy detailed in the [Student Handbook](#). Please familiarize yourself with the policy, quoted in part below.

Union College Policy on Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Union College prohibits the unlawful use, possession, or distribution of drugs and alcohol by students and employees on the Union College campus, or while engaged in Union College-sponsored activities or employment. This includes all paraphernalia associated with the use of drugs and/or alcohol abuse. Union College observes all laws governing the use of alcoholic beverages within the State of New York and prohibits any violations of these laws. Students will be held personally responsible for complying with all aspects of federal, state, and local laws as well as the College's Code of Conduct and any other rules governing alcohol and drug use. In its enforcement of the College policy, Union will act neither as a police agency enforcing the law nor as a sanctuary protecting those who violate laws regarding alcohol or other drugs.

Individuals whose ability to reason and control their actions are impaired by excessive consumption of alcohol or illicit use of controlled substances put their lives at risk. Ultimately, such students endanger the well-being and safety of others. The College maintains that inebriation and/or ignorance of applicable laws governing the use of alcohol and drugs are not acceptable or justifiable excuses for disruptive or dangerous behavior. Such excuses do not release the individual from responsibility to the residential community and the College at large. Behavior that endangers mental and/or physical health creates legal liability, or puts lives at risk, will not be tolerated.

Students are reminded to act responsibly and ethically during their time abroad. If the Director of the program has guidelines that are more conservative than those of your host country or Union's policy, you are expected to adhere to those rules. Because laws vary around the world, it is extremely important **that you learn the laws of your host country**. Ignorance is not an excuse. While you may find that the drinking age is lower in your host country than it is in the U.S. it does not mean that laws and attitudes toward excessive drinking and use of illegal substances are more tolerant. In fact, you will find that almost every other country has stricter laws towards public intoxication and illegal drugs. **If you are caught with illegal substances, you may be fined, incarcerated, and deported from the country.** It will not matter if you only had a small amount, if that was your first time, or if all your friends were doing it; you could be treated the same as a drug trafficker.

Students who abuse alcohol or other drugs may be asked to leave the program and return to the U.S. at the discretion of the Director of International Programs and the Program Director. Upon their review, the Dean of Students or his/her designee will be consulted.

Do not forget that you may be perceived as an American, and as such, you will be seen with many stereotypes. Many other countries see rampant alcohol and drug abuse in the US and presume that all Americans behave in that manner. You may find yourself targeted, and alcohol and drug laws more strictly applied to you, because of this. If you act responsibly and follow the laws, you should not have any problems. Please read the U.S. State Department's [Travel Warning on Drugs Abroad](#).

I have read the above and understand my responsibilities with regard to the alcohol and drug policy on my proposed plan to study abroad.