

Oakland University Agreement Regarding Student Behavior Abroad

Students participating in programs through Oakland University are at all times expected to exhibit sensitivity to the host culture, respect and observe local rules and laws, and conduct themselves in ways that demonstrate high regard for the intellectual and cultural experience in which they are engaged. The Oakland University Agreement Regarding Student Behavior includes policies based on such expectations and the assumption that students are both adults and guests abroad. As students and adults, OU participants are expected to abide by this Agreement and are legally subject to the same laws and regulations that govern the host country's citizens and any other laws which are applicable to the student's immigration status in the host country. OU participants must still abide by the policies and regulations of their enrolling and home institutions, hereafter referred to as "home institutions."

As an academic organization, the OU community strives to maintain a positive and respectful environment for all members, advocating respect and consideration towards all students, staff, faculty, members of host institutions, and citizens in general. You are privileged to be a guest in another country and responsible for maintaining a positive attitude and demonstrating respect towards both yourself and others. For the duration of your time in an OU program, recognize that you reflect both OU and your own country, and that you are expected to be a positive advocate.

OU holds you responsible for knowing and abiding by this Agreement, which exists to facilitate a positive educational environment as well as to ensure a safe, developmental, and rewarding experience abroad.

OU students who are participating in a program involving a local university are subject to the rules of conduct, academic procedures, academic honor codes, and student disciplinary procedures of the respective university as well as to this Agreement.

Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to follow OU rules and regulations. Those who choose to engage in unacceptable conduct and violate this Agreement are subject to appropriate review and sanctions, up to and including removal from the program. **Information regarding students who violate OU policies abroad will be transmitted to the Student Affairs Office at OU, who may elect to impose additional sanctions.**

The following are prohibited through the student's participation in an OU program:

- Violence against others. This is defined as striking or doing any other physical harm to another or threatening to do so.
- Sexual assault. This is defined as an offense committed when a student subjects another person to sexual contact without having first obtained explicit consent or when he or she knows or should have known the person was incapable of consent by reason of mental disorder, mental incapacitation, intoxication, or physical helplessness.
- Verbal abuse of faculty, staff, students, home-stay families, host community members, or representatives of OU's on-site director.
- Disruption or obstruction of classes or other activities at the program site or local university.

- Damage to property belonging to OU, host universities, residence halls, hosts or host families, apartments, program facilities, or fellow students.
- Possession or use of firearms or other dangerous weapons.
- Possession or use of fireworks, incendiary devices, dangerous explosives, or other dangerous instrumentalities or substances.
- Theft
- Unauthorized entry into or use of program facilities, equipment, or technology, or host university/partner's facilities, equipment, or technology.
- Violations of residential guidelines or rules, including specific and reasonable requests from a home-stay host family.
- Criminal behavior or violation of local laws.
- Failure to follow the established guidelines, local attendance policies, directives, timetables, and reasonable instruction by the staff or faculty.
- Failure to attend required classes, events, and excursions, unless otherwise noted on a syllabus or excused.
- Obtaining unauthorized access to, viewing of, copying, or distributing confidential information.
- Falsification, forgery, or alteration of documents.
- Harassment of any person, not limited to members of the OU community. Harassment is defined as any conduct that either in form or operation unreasonable discriminates among individuals on the basis of age, disability, national origin, race, marital status, religion, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation, and that is sufficiently severe or pervasive that it interferes with work or academic performance because it has created an intimidating, hostile, or degrading working or academic environment. Sexual harassment is a type of gender discrimination which is defined as any sexual advance, any request for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when submission to such advances, requests, or conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or academic experience; or such conduct is unwelcome and sufficiently severe or pervasive that it interferes with work or academic performance.
- Stalking of any person.
- Failure to obey drug and alcohol-related laws.
- Abuse of alcohol or controlled substances, even when lawfully possessed.
- Participation in activity which recklessly or intentionally endangers the safety of self or others.
- Unreasonably limiting the freedom of movement of others.

Review Procedures

The Site Director (or designee) will inquire into the circumstances surrounding any suspected or reported rule infractions. If the Site Director (or designee) determines that further action is appropriate, the student(s) involved will participate in the following Review Procedures:

- Students will be notified verbally or in writing by the Site Director (or designee) of the incident and of the time and place to meet with the Site Director (or designee) to discuss it. The meeting may be in person, or, at the election of the Site Director (or designee) by telephone.
- Students may be accompanied by a third party if they choose, but that party may not be an attorney.

- At the meeting, students may present any relevant information, including written statements from witnesses. The Site Director (or designee) will determine the relevance of presented information and submitted materials.
- If the student admits to the behavior, the incident will be discussed, and appropriate sanctions will be determined.
- If the student denies involvement in the incident, the discussion will focus on the available information. The Site Director (or designee) will make a determination based on available information as to whether the student breached this Agreement. The Site Director (or designee) has a reasonable time in which to render a final decision in each case. Students will be notified as soon as possible after a decision has been reached. Sanctions for breach of this Agreement are in effect as soon as a decision has been rendered. A student will be notified verbally or in writing of the decision.
- If a student fails to accept receipt of written notice or otherwise fails to participate in these procedures, the Site Director (or designee) may find that the student has engaged in the alleged breach and impose sanctions.

Should a breach be discovered at the end of the program or after a student has left the program, all documentation and pertinent information on the case will be forwarded to the accused student's Dean of Student Affairs for review.

Interim Suspension

In cases where the Site Director (or designee) reasonably believes that there is potential for further harm to self or others, the Site Director (or designee) may immediately remove any student from his/her residence or from the program until the Site Director (or designee) speaks with the student. If, after speaking with the student, the Site Director (or designee) reasonably believes that there is potential for further harm to self or others, the interim suspension may be continued until the student has been notified of the decision rendered at the conclusion of the review process described above.

Appeals

If a sanction of Disciplinary Probation or Dismissal has been imposed, a student may request an appeal. All requests for the hearing of an appeal must be directed to the OU Office of International Education, 520 O'Dowd Hall.

A request for an appeal must be submitted by the student within five days of the student being notified of a decision. The student may give the appeal request to the Site Director who will fax the appeal to the OU Director for International Education – Fax # 248 370 2589 or email the appeal to the Director at the email address found on the OU IE website at www.oakland.edu/ie. The student may also fax or email the appeal directly to the OU Director of International Education. All sanctions remain in effect until any appeals have been considered and responded to in writing. The Director for International Education will first determine whether the appeal will be heard. If the appeal will be heard, the Director for International Education will review the record and consult with site staff and others regarding pertinent information. An appeal is not a rehearing of the case.

Sanctions

All sanctions are designed to be educational, with student growth and welfare in mind. Sanctions can take a variety of forms, and can be issued in combination, depending on the violation in question.

1. **Written Warning:**

A written notice is given to the student that the violation/incident is unacceptable and the notice is placed in the student's file on-site. Written warnings will not be communicated to OU on the first offense. However, the warning will remain in the student's on-site file and will be communicated to OU if additional incidents occur. (See below.)

2. **Letter of Reprimand**

A written notice is given to the student that the violation/incident is unacceptable. A copy of the letter of reprimand will be sent to the Director of International Education and additional sanctions may apply. (See below.) This sanction may be used if a student incurs repeated minor violations/incidents (see above) and/or more severe single violations/incidents.

3. **Disciplinary Probation**

A written notice is given to the student that the violation/incident is unacceptable. A copy of the notice will be sent to the OU Director for International Education. Specific conditions will be set which the student must meet in order to continue participation in the program, and additional sanctions may apply. (See below.) Disciplinary probation may be applied in the case of repeated violations/incidents of any severity, and/or single violations/incidents of high severity.

4. **Dismissal from the Program**

A written notice is given to the student terminating his or her status as a participant in the study-abroad program. A copy of the dismissal notice will be sent to the OU Director for International Education. All affiliated institutions and individuals in the host country will be notified that the student's affiliation with the OU study-abroad program is terminated. No refunds will be granted of any OU charges or fees. Dismissal may be applied in the case of repeated offenses of any severity, and/or single violations/incidents of high severity.

5. **Additional Sanctions:**

Additional sanctions applied as a condition for continuing in the program may include but are not limited to

- Restitution/Fine: This involves charges to be paid for damages, theft, or penalty
- Formal Apology: This involves the requirement to present a written apology to program staff or instructors, students, and/or community members (e.g., host families, host institutions, neighbors) affected by the conduct.
- Community Education or Service: This involves students being required to perform an educational task or to provide service to a group as assigned for a limited period of time. These efforts will generally be related to the violation in question.
- Required Assessment and/or Participation in Drug, Alcohol, or Other Professional Counseling: This involves requiring the student to be assessed at his or her own expense by a qualified professional and/or attend a specified number of sessions with a specific individual or treatment program for appropriate counseling.

- Behavioral Contract: This involves a contractual agreement between the student and OU specifying certain types of behaviors that will or will not be engaged in by the student as a condition of continuing in the program.
- Loss of Privileges: This means that a student's privileges to use facilities or to participate in activities or events will be withdrawn either permanently or for a set period of time.
- Housing Change or Termination: This means that the student may be required to leave his or her housing and move to alternate housing or obtain housing accommodations independently. No refunds will be provided. Depending on the situation, housing termination may be grounds for immediate dismissal from the program.

I have read and understand the foregoing. As a condition of being permitted to participate in an OU study-abroad program, I agree to be bound by the foregoing.

Signature of student

Date

Please print name