

UCEAP Substance Abuse Policy

The excessive use of alcohol by students abroad is one of the primary causes of accidents and incidents resulting in injuries. UCEAP does not condone any behavior that results from the use and/or abuse of alcohol; such behavior may lead to dismissal. Alcohol and other drug abuse and the resulting consequences can have a significantly negative impact on UCEAP participants.

It is the student's responsibility to know what the alcohol laws and the legal drinking and purchasing age are in the host country. Students should be careful to limit their alcohol intake and pay particular attention to host country laws and the regulations described below. All UCEAP students are expected to obey all the laws of the countries they visit. Those who break these laws sometimes face severe penalties, including prison sentences. UCEAP and the US Embassy will not be able to help.

PREAMBLE

As participants in an official academic program of the University of California (UC), students enrolled in, and employees of, the UCEAP are subject to all the rules and regulations of the University. The substance abuse policies at UC apply equally to students abroad, who are receiving credit from the University through UCEAP, and its employees.

University of California Policy on Substance Abuse

The UC recognizes dependency on alcohol and other drugs as a treatable condition and offers programs and services for University employees and students with substance dependency problems. Employees and students are encouraged to seek assistance from local resources and/or counseling or psychological services available on site. Information about an employee or student during participation in such programs or services will be treated as confidential, in accordance with Federal and State laws.

To promote an environment of academic excellence and to comply with the requirements of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and the Drug Free Workplace Act, academic and staff employees and students:

- Shall not use illegal substances and shall not abuse legal substances in a manner that impairs scholarly activities, job performance, or student life.
- Shall not use illegal or legal substances in a manner that violates applicable criminal or civil laws in the workplace, on university premises, at university activities, or while conducting university business.
- Are prohibited from the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of alcohol and/or a controlled substance in the workplace, on university premises, at university activities, or while conducting university business.

Students found guilty of violating the UCEAP Substance Abuse Policy, the [University of California System Campus Regulations Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations, and Students 102.17-18](#) are subject to disciplinary sanctions, which may include loss of privileges and exclusion from activities, probation, warning, suspension, or dismissal. In addition to or in lieu of a corrective action, a student may also be required to participate in an approved counseling or treatment program. This treatment program is not covered by UCEAP insurance so students will pay for any costs associated with such treatment. The UCEAP insurance policy covers only three (3) days hospitalization (acute detoxification).

Use of Controlled Substances Abroad

According to the US Department of State, each year, 2,500 Americans are arrested abroad. One third of the arrests are on drug-related charges. Many of those arrested assumed that they could not be arrested as US citizens. From Asia to Africa and Europe to South America, US citizens are finding out the hard way that drug possession or trafficking will result in incarceration in foreign countries; legal sanctions pertaining to the use and possession of even the smallest amounts of illegal substances tend to be extremely severe; and the US authorities have virtually no control over a US citizen found to be in violation of local law. In many developing countries, no distinction is made between personal use or possession and distribution or sale; penalties can be life imprisonment or execution. Even associating with drug users can be very dangerous. If you purchase prescription medications in quantities larger than that considered necessary for personal use, you could be arrested on suspicion of drug trafficking. Once you're arrested, the US consular officer cannot get you out.

HEALTH RISKS

Substance abuse may result in a wide spectrum of extremely serious health and behavioral problems. Substance abuse results in both short- and long-term effects upon the body and mind. There are specific health risks related to alcohol and drug use, and there are general health risks related to impairment and addiction. Alcohol and drugs are toxic to the body's systems. In addition to the problem of toxicity, contaminant poisonings often occur with illegal drug use. HIV infection associated with intravenous drug use is a prevalent hazard.

Acute health problems may include heart attack, stroke, and sudden death, which, in the case of some drugs such as cocaine, can occur after first-time use. Long-lasting health effects of drugs and alcohol may include disruption of normal heart rhythm, high blood pressure, leaks of blood vessels in the brain, bleeding and destruction of brain cells and permanent memory loss, infertility, impotency, immune system impairment, kidney failure, cirrhosis of the liver, and pulmonary damage. Drug use during pregnancy may result in fetal damage and birth defects causing hyperactivity, neurological abnormalities, and developmental difficulties.

WHERE TO GET HELP

Students are encouraged to seek assistance for substance abuse and dependency problems. To find out what services are available to you abroad, consult with your Study Center Director/Liaison Officer and staff. Your inquiries will be kept confidential.