

Sexual Assault Prevention

What to know when you're studying abroad

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Sensitive subject matter....



Definitions

Sexual Harassment - sexual advances, requests, verbal or physical

- Quid pro quo
- Hostile environment

Sexual Assault - rape, fondling, incest, statutory rape

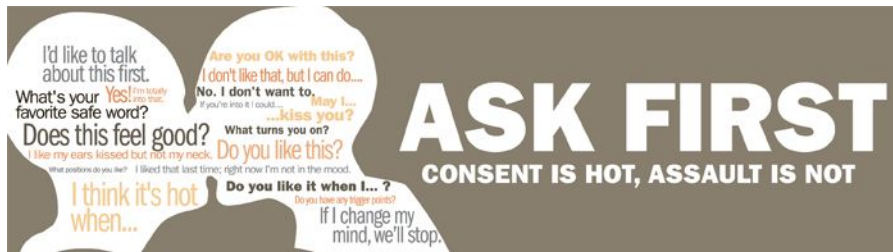
Domestic Violence - spouse or intimate partner violence

Stalking - directed at specific person, causing fear or distress

Dating Violence - social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature, abuse of any kind

Consent

- Clear, unambiguous voluntary agreement to participate in sexual activity
- Active expression, not passive
- Equal power between all involved parties
- Consent to some activities does not imply “Yes” to others
- Can’t be present when asleep, unconscious, or incapacitated due to drugs, alcohol, or other conditions
- Must be able to say “No”
- Consent can be taken away at any time
- Must be present in long standing relationships





Policies and Study Abroad

Students participating in Study Abroad programs are still bound by all University of Maine policies including the Student Conduct Code



Rights of Students

- Receive support services such as counseling, No Contact Directive, etc.
- Have your report handled as confidentially as possible
- Be informed of relevant University policy(ies)
- Request accommodations in regards to academics, housing, etc.
- File a complaint with the University, and have assistance doing so (if both parties are students)
- Have your complaint investigated
- Request a University trained advisor for your hearing
- Be free from retaliation
- File a police report



University of Maine Campus Resources

- **CONFIDENTIAL** - University of Maine Counseling Center
 - (M-F 8:00 – 4:30) 207.581.1392
- **PRIVATE** - University of Maine Title IX Student Services
 - (M-F 8:00 – 4:30) 207.581.1406
 - Email heather.hogan@maine.edu
- **PRIVATE** - Office of International Programs
 - (M-F 8:00 – 4:30) 207.581.2905
- **PRIVATE** - University of Maine Police Department
 - 207.581.4040
 - Can connect you with any of the above after hours



Off Campus Resources

- Rape Response Services
 - (24/7) 1.800.871.7741
- Partners for Peace
 - (24/7) 1.800.863.9909
- Penobscot Nation Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Advocacy Center
 - (24/7) 207.631.4886
- Contact Nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate – or call the Department of State
 - (for overseas) 202.501.4444
 - (in the U.S or Canada) 1.888.407.4747
- Reach out to your host institution: residential advisor, or faculty member



Prevention Measures

- Sexual assault is prevalent in all countries, some more than others
 - Please be realistic on the occurrence in your destination country
- Be aware of how you can reduce your risks



Sexual Assault Prevention

- Research the University where you will be studying
 - What are their definitions?
 - What are their resources?
 - What are their local laws?
 - Example: “Under Article 178 of the Penal Code a person shall be guilty of a sexual assault when that person offends against the sexual freedom of another person, using violence or intimidation.” (Spain) - <https://www.pineradelolmo.com/>



Plan Ahead

- Identify resources before you leave
- Connect with the host university or study center abroad
- Know who to contact in case of an emergency



Learn About Social Norms

Example: Italy

- Many young people still live with their parents
- Traditional gender rules are still prevalent
 - (The man pays for the meal)
- People will be late, everyone is 10 minutes late in Italy
- People may be more affectionate than in the United States
- Italians dress well! You most likely won't see anyone dressed in a hoodie and sneakers for dinner at a restaurant
 - Bathing suits, cropped shirts and flip flops are for the beach only!



Alcohol & Drugs

- Alcohol and other drugs are commonly used in sexual assaults
 - Majority of sexual assaults involve use of alcohol by one or both parties
 - Keep in mind that alcohol and drugs can impair your judgement
 - Putting you at risk of sexually assaulting someone
 - Or becoming a victim of a sexual assault



Reduce Your Risk

- Pay attention to local norms of dress (such as covering of legs or head) and behavior
- Not everyone has good intentions
- Familiarize yourself with phrases or gestures that could signal sexual availability
- Don't be alone with strangers or others you just met



Reduce Your Risk

If you know of someone who has traveled to your destination, ask them about their experiences



It's never your

FAULT



Contact Information

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- Questions?