

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT.

Your European Institute program is going to be an exciting experience. For it to run smoothly, your group leader and the European Institute have devised the following rules to ensure that all goes well.

These rules are basically codified common sense and can be summed up in one phrase: you are ambassadors. How you behave will result in the impression – good or bad – foreigners have of Americans. We all share an interest in making sure they have a positive impression of us!

1. **Alcohol.** In some European countries, it is usual to have beer or wine with meals and the legal drinking age is lower than in the States (where many more young people drive than in Europe.) Students under 21 must obtain their parents' or legal guardian's written permission to try a glass of beer or wine at mealtime. This may only take place in the presence of a teacher counselor. In some cases, school districts or teachers may not allow drinking of wine or beer for students under 21. Your teacher's or school policy must be followed. Under no circumstances may a student drink liquor or spirits. The serious consequences of breaking this rule are laid out in the section on discipline.
2. **Visiting friends or relatives.** If such visits require you to leave the program temporarily, you will need a letter of permission from your parent or guardian to be given to the teacher before the beginning of your tour. Insurance regulations prevent guests or friends being allowed to travel on the bus or spend the night in your room.
3. **Weapons** – such as knives, guns or fireworks may not be carried or bought by students.
4. **Drugs** . Possession of illegal substances is a serious offence and will result in dismissal from the group and a return home at your parents' expense.
5. **Attendance at Meals** . You will not want to miss your included breakfast or dinner and are expected to attend unless given permission by your group leader.
6. **Curfew** . The European Institute sets a general midnight curfew on all trips. Your group leader may modify this at their discretion if you are engaged in a group activity.
7. **Motor Vehicles** of any description may not be driven or rented by students.
8. **Sexual Misbehavior.** You may be sent home at your parents' expense for any sexual misbehavior.
9. **Included group activities** such as sightseeing or local excursions require your participation . After all that's why you're there!
10. **Respect for local culture** Remember you are an ambassador for your country. Please act respectfully in group situations.
11. **Hotel Guidelines** – Be careful with your room as you will be personally responsible for any damage you cause and will not be allowed to leave the hotel till any damage has been paid for. Whilst we will investigate any such incident as well as we can, ultimately the hotel report is held to be definitive. Do not wash clothes in rooms as you will be charged for any

water stains – self service Laundromats are widespread in Europe and your hotel will tell you the nearest.

12. Do not leave your passport or travelers' checks in your room.

13. Phone calls from your room are your responsibility and in any case are a bad and expensive idea! Your best bet is to use calling cards from public phones as some hotels charge an access fee for use of their lines

14. Some hotels may have mini-fridges in the room. You will be charged for any drinks taken from here (of course, alcoholic beverages are banned). You should leave plenty of time and pay for any such drinks or phone calls before you leave in the morning(or preferably, the night before.)

15. Free time periods. Some tours have time built into them for personal exploration at your own pace. Your group leader must know where you are, who you are with, and when you will return. You must be in groups of three or four when you are without your group leader.

16. Appropriate dress . Casual dress is fine except in certain situations which your tour director will tell you about. Generally, if you are visiting a cathedral or church, you need to show respect for the religious feelings of the local inhabitants by not wearing shorts, or skirts above the knee, sleeveless blouses or t-shirts. This is especially true of churches in Spain and Italy, where deacons often monitor visitors for dress solecisms.

Discipline

The overwhelming majority of our students comport themselves well on tour and have the time of their lives. This section is dedicated to the tiny number of students who misbehave and potentially ruin everyone else's trip!

A first violation of the rules leads to a meeting with the tour director and group leader. The group leader will decide if any action needs to be taken and if a collect call needs to be placed to the students' parents. For continued violations, a collect call will be placed to the parents.

For serious violations, such as drinking hard liquor, or drinking wine or beer without a teacher present, breaking curfew, or sexual misconduct, the local European Institute office will be contacted and a collect call made to the parents. The group leader and the European Institute staff will decide whether to send the student home at the parents' expense. Only The European Institute can make the final decision whether to send the student home.

Such an extreme event rarely occurs, but is important that students realize these sanctions are in place.

Adult Participants .

Adults over the age of 21 are exempt from rules on the drinking of adults, attendance at meals, group activities and curfew. Restrictions on the renting and driving of motor vehicles do not apply to them (although they are not covered by the European Institute insurance policy whilst in a rented vehicle.)

