



Alcohol Policy

Carleton College is committed to promoting responsible behavior regarding the use of alcoholic beverages, no matter the location, culture, or circumstances. As an educational institution, the College provides resources that empower students to inform themselves about the physiological, psychological, and sociological effects of alcohol and other drugs upon the individual and the community ([Carleton Student Handbook](#)). The following information does not supplant Carleton's Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy. Rather, it provides additional context for how Carleton's policies apply abroad.

Consuming alcohol looks and feels different in new places and countries. Nervousness, anxiety, or excitement, for example, can increase the intoxicating effects of alcoholic beverages. These and other effects of alcohol consumption abroad are covered in the OCS Health and Safety meeting. In any environment, but particularly abroad, be thoughtful about your host country's culture around drinking and honor their and your comfort level with alcohol. Feel free to ask your faculty director or host about situations involving alcohol in which you feel insecure, and evaluate your critical attitude toward drinking. If the host country's laws allow drinking at a younger age than your home culture, be mindful of your own and others' limits so you can safely enjoy your surroundings and not make regretful decisions. Among other things, don't go to bars or pubs alone; always go with at least one other person and arrange to come home together, too. Don't leave your peers alone, especially at night and when drinking. If you choose to consume alcohol, always do so in a responsible manner.

Your faculty director(s) has/have the right to set rules and guidelines around alcohol consumption. In some situations, with cultural or educational significance, for example, a wine-tasting event with an educational component, the program may purchase alcohol for eligible students. In other situations, faculty directors may join an evening meal where students decide to purchase alcohol themselves. Respect your peers' choices regarding alcohol and listen to your own body and mind if and when you decide to drink. If one of your peers drinks irresponsibly, seek advice and help from your faculty director.

The rights and responsibilities in the [Carleton Student Handbook](#) apply to off-campus study, except that local laws may supplant Minnesota/U.S. law in some circumstances. The living environment on off-campus study may require a standard of decorum that differs from that of Carleton residential life, and students are generally expected to understand and conform to the standards of the host culture. It is important to the success of OCS programs that participants observe standards of conduct that do not compromise Carleton in the eyes of individuals and organizations abroad with which it has relationships. The Program Director has the authority to (among other things): 1) establish rules of conduct for the operation of the program during the entire period of the program, including free time, 2) establish rules of conduct that are stricter than local laws.

Student conduct that might disrupt the program, bring it into disrepute, or place its participants at risk may result in penalties up to and including dismissal. Such decisions, which may be made by the Program Director, in consultation with the Dean of Students, will be final and may result in the loss of academic credit and the loss of program fees. ([OCS Personal Conduct Statement](#))