

LUTHER COLLEGE

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Department: Center for Global Learning
Subject: Alcohol Purchase and Use on Study Abroad Programs
Date Issued: January 1, 2014
Date Revised:
Approved By:

I. Policy

This policy outlines the guidelines regarding the purchase and use of alcohol on Luther study abroad programs. The policy clarifies a more informal understanding regarding the purchase and use of alcohol while abroad established in 2009.

II. Purpose

The Luther “Policy Statement on Alcohol and Other Drugs” outlines the general behavior expected of Luther students with respect to the consumption of alcohol. It states:

As an educational institution, we place a great deal of responsibility on students who are of legal age to make the decision whether or not to consume alcohol and if they choose to consume alcohol, to do so responsibly. College students also have a great deal of freedom; however, with freedom comes responsibility.

The responsible student will:

- *Make an informed decision on choosing to consume alcohol.*
- *Know, understand, and conform to federal, state, and local laws, and adhere to Luther College regulations on alcohol use.*
- *Assume accountability for one’s behavior (and those of guests) and accept the consequences for all actions.*
- *Not make alcohol the main focus in his/her activities. Consuming alcohol just to consume or get intoxicated is not responsible use.*
- *Not pressure other students to consume alcohol, whether directly or indirectly.*
- *Not pressure other students to engage in sexual activity when either or both of them have been consuming alcohol.*
- *Not behave in a way that is disruptive or otherwise harmful to self or others including times when this behavior is related to alcohol consumption.*
- *Show care and concern for students who use alcohol in a manner damaging to themselves or the community, and refer students to the Residence Life Office, Student Life Office, Counseling Service, or any faculty or staff member for additional assistance.*

This policy on the purchase and use of alcohol abroad is not inconsistent with the broader aims stated above. The reality is that most Luther students are of legal drinking age in the countries in which they are traveling and studying. In addition, the use of alcohol is a normative component of many of these cultures.

III. Scope

This policy applies to all Luther-sponsored international programs, including but not limited to J-term, summer, semester, yearlong, music tours, and athletic team trips.

IV. Procedures and Guidelines

A. Purchase

- The general college policy on the purchase of alcohol states: “Alcohol is not to be purchased with college funds unless the purchase has been approved by a Cabinet member.”
- For Luther study abroad programs, the following policy supersedes the general college policy: “Alcohol may be purchased with college funds by program leaders on Luther study abroad programs, as long as the purchase of alcohol conforms to the general guidelines of use listed below.”

B. Use

- In many countries around the world, the consumption of alcohol—particularly wine and beer—is considered a normal part of many meals.
- The use of alcohol should always be in moderation.
- Students and program leaders are expected to abide by the alcohol policies specific to the country or region in which they are traveling and studying. This includes the age at which individuals are legally allowed to drink. Luther students who are under the legal drinking age may not consume alcohol. Programs traveling and studying in countries that prohibit the consumption of alcohol must abide by the local laws.
- At no time should the consumption of alcohol be the central focus of any event or gathering. The spirit of the policy is to allow periodic consumption of alcohol at group meals in a manner consistent with local cultures and traditions.
- Non-alcoholic options must always be available to students and program leaders who choose not to consume alcohol.
- Students who choose to consume alcohol must do so in a manner that does not conflict with responsible behavior as outlined in the Luther Code of Conduct and related policy documents.
- Program leaders may also occasionally share in a meal with guests while abroad, if the meal is related to the abroad program, where alcohol is consumed. The amount of alcohol consumed should be appropriate to the number of guests at the meal.
- The Center for Global Learning will continue to monitor the purchase and use of alcohol abroad.