Alcohol Policies & Expectations

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY ITALIAN CAMPUS PROGRAM
The Duquesne University Residence Life Handbook ([http://www.duq.edu/Documents/residence-life/_pdf/Residence_Life_Handbook.pdf](http://www.duq.edu/Documents/residence-life/_pdf/Residence_Life_Handbook.pdf)) is clear about on what is not allowed by students as a Duquesne University student: “All students of legal drinking age are responsible for their actions while drinking alcoholic beverages, including being intoxicated while being in public. Any student may be cited by a University official for public intoxication. It is to the University official’s discretion whether or not a student may be considered publicly intoxicated. Public intoxication includes, but is not limited to, endangering the safety of other students or the self. All alcohol policy violations will result in disciplinary action and/or educational programming by Duquesne CARES.” (pg. 4) – **YOU ARE NEVER TO BE INTOXICATED/DRUNK.**
The Alcohol Agreement Policy, which you all signed and is available to you in your Italian Campus Student Handbook (pg. 35 & 36) is clear in section “3” when it states: “Each student is responsible for knowing the country’s laws, Duquesne University’s rules, the Italian Campus rules, and understand one’s own personal limits before using or consuming alcoholic beverages.” – YOU MUST UNDERSTAND AND KNOW YOUR OWN LIMITS AND NOT EXCEED THEM.
The Amendments to the Duquesne University Residence Life Handbook (pg. 28-29 of the Italian Campus Student Handbook) is clear that the Italian Campus is a “dry campus”: “No alcohol is allowed on the actual Italian Campus, except for special events when alcohol will be provided by the Italian Campus staff. All alcohol purchased for gifts, etc. must be checked in with the Student Services Office.” – YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE YOUR OWN PERSONAL ALCOHOL ON CAMPUS. YOU MAY CHECK IN ALCOHOL THAT YOU HAVE PURCHASED AS GIFTS DURING YOUR TRAVELS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAKE HOME WITH YOU AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER.
WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU WHILE STUDYING ABROAD? BE AN AMBASSADOR!

- You are expected to be positive ambassadors, representing in a special way the USA (or your home nation), Duquesne University, and most importantly – **YOURSELF**! We must change the way that people stereotype American college students abroad by using alcohol in a **culturally sensitive way**.
HOW TO ACT AS AN AMBASSADOR?
HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES...

- **Italians generally consume alcohol while eating**: Italians have a deep cultural tie to alcohol, generally linked with the production and consumption of wine and hard liquors used as *digestivi*, a drink served in a shot glass that is sipped over conversation after dinner to help with digestion. You probably have already participated in a traditional *aperitivo* or “happy hour”, where Italians converse over a (1) cocktail while having finger foods before heading to dinner together. Wine will almost always be present at lunch or dinner, but many times wine at lunch is “cut” by adding water to it so that nobody will become tipsy. As you have learned already, Italians will pour each other’s wine and keep track of how much their friends are drinking, as being intoxicated is **taboo** in this culture.
After dinner, if alcohol was not consumed during dinner, some friends will head to a local pub and have a beer or two together before parting ways for the evening. You should follow these same customs, as consuming an appropriate amount of alcohol while also drinking water and consuming food will keep you from becoming intoxicated.
GOING OUT WITH THE INTENT, HOPE, OR PLAN TO GET DRUNK IS A FOREIGN CONCEPT IN THIS COUNTRY AND VIEWED AS DANGEROUS, CONFUSING, & FULFILLS THE UGLY AMERICAN STEREOTYPE.
Open Container Laws in Italy: Although open containers of alcohol are only against the law after 10:00 p.m. in most Italian cities, **culturally** hard liquor should never be consumed in the streets. Although having a normal sized beer in a bottle/can (33cl) is common to drink in a piazza or in front of a bar while socializing, wine will **NEVER** be consumed directly from the bottle. Wine should be respected when drinking it and should be drunk from glasses in the company of friends.
The Consumption of Alcohol is “no big deal”: In Italy, families introduce their children to alcohol at a very early age. A sip of prosecco with their birthday cake when they are five years old or a splash of wine to color their water so they can feel like they are participating with their families at lunch/dinner when they are ten years old is very normal in this society. Since alcohol is accepted by all, ubiquitous, and seen as a “special commodity”, there is not a rush to abuse alcohol. Italians are also very in touch with how food and drink affect their bodies and are extremely careful to never reach a state of being out of control.
Binge Drinking: The new generation of young Italians is starting to have the same issues as we do in the United States with binge drinking, but binge drinking or “drinking to get drunk”, is NEVER socially acceptable in this culture. There is a constant conversation now in Italy about how to battle this new phenomenon that is creeping into their society and generally thought to be a plague from Anglo Saxon cultures. The American stereotypes of drinking, including, “Thirsty Thursdays”, “Tailgating”, “Southside/Bar Crawl”, “Keggers” types of drinking is extremely prohibited while studying in our programs abroad. This type of behavior is dangerous for study abroad students for a myriad of reasons and seen as offensive by the Italian people.
DANGERS OF ALCOHOL DURING YOUR SOJOURN IN ROME

- Dangers including addiction, theft, rape, or even death: There are nearly 30,000 American students in Italy each year. Beyond the incredible good provided by our programs to students, there are terrible tragedies that hit our programs each year. Many of these incidents are alcohol related and could have been prohibited. As with living in any major metropolis of the world, there is crime and those that would do you harm. Specifically, in Italy there are people that prey on intoxicated American students as they have learned to expect this behavior from us. **EXAMPLES.**
**Examples**

- **Death:** Last year (2014), a Trinity College study abroad student in Rome was killed as he was returning home intoxicated and was hit by a train. This devastated his family in the States, his friends in Rome and the administration of his study abroad program.

- **Unprotected Sex/Sexual Assault:** A 2007 Middlebury College study from the Department of Psychology came up with the shocking conclusion that females studying abroad are 5 times more likely to be raped than those that stay home. There were links in the study to “double drinking” that happens with study abroad students and females in a non-English language country were at the highest risk due to “language barriers and social differences between the woman and her unwanted partner”.

- **Theft:** Each semester at the Italian Campus students have wallets, cameras, and jewelry stolen while they have been under the influence of alcohol. In both 2012 and 2013, Duquesne students that had had too much to drink were robbed at knife-point in both Campo de’ Fiori and the Piazza Navona areas.
We are trying to be as specific as possible regarding acceptable behavior & alcohol. However, “good behavior” cannot be spelled out in its entirety, as different situations require responsible decision making skills. You are all intelligent adults who are in college and we believe that you know what is acceptable and what is unacceptable behavior.

Keep being mindful of the native people around you. We hope the things brought to your attention will help you understand what we expect from you as a program and what the host country (Italy) expects from you too.
Our Italian Campus Counselor: Dr. Carolyn Rathjen’s contact information is below. Her services are made available to you to help you during your adaptation abroad. The services are free and are confidential. If you’re having issues with alcohol, peer pressure, understanding your limits, etc., she can be a great resource for you! Dr. Rathjen’s email: carolynvrathjen@gmail.com
Article: “I’m so wasted: Reasons you shouldn’t binge abroad”: A great article about how limiting alcohol consumption abroad helps you have a more meaningful experience:

http://www.goabroad.com/blog/2013/10/01/reasons-you-shouldnt-binge-abroad/
RESOURCES

- **Alcohol & Your Body**: A great resource for students studying abroad from Brown University about what is “a drink” and how to intelligently calculate your alcohol intake in order to keep yourself safe and within the rules of campus and society!

  [http://www.brown.edu/Student_Services/Health_Services/Health_Education/alcohol,_tobacco, & _other_drugs/alcohol/alcohol & your_body.php](http://www.brown.edu/Student_Services/Health_Services/Health_Education/alcohol,_tobacco, & _other_drugs/alcohol/alcohol & your_body.php)
A NOTE FROM THE STAFF

- Please know that the Italian Campus staff is here for each of you during your semester in Rome! We have all been through what you are going through and we want to be an important part of your transformational semester. We hope to always emulate acceptable cultural behaviors to you and our Italian hosts. We hope that when in doubt about anything, you will look to us as examples or reach out to us with questions or concerns.

Here’s to a safe, smooth, and transformational semester!