WESTMINSTER COLLEGE MTSE ALCOHOL AND ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE POLICY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT—STUDENTS

Please read the information below carefully and sign this form indicating your understanding and acknowledgement of what is written on each side.

As a student participant in the May Term Study Experience (MTSE), you serve as an ambassador for Westminster College, the state of Utah, and the United States and you are expected to abide by the laws, regulations, and customs of the host country, community, institution and programs and conduct yourself in a mature and responsible manner at all times.

ALCOHOL USE

Unlike in the United States, in most countries, alcohol can be legally purchased and consumed by people over the age of 18. Most countries—with the exception of those with religious prohibitions—tolerate social drinking. Intoxication, public drunkenness, and inebriated behavior, however, are not allowed under any circumstances and may be deemed criminal behavior. When visiting a foreign country, common sense and good judgment are essential for keeping yourself and the group safe. The safest decision is always to not drink because MTSE trips combine considerable travel and academic instruction through unfamiliar terrain.

As an adult, you are ultimately responsible for your own health and safety. Although alcohol misuse may not carry the same legal penalties as the use of illegal drugs, it can create dire circumstances for you and your safety abroad. Alcohol abuse and misuse are not tolerated anywhere in the world. Alcohol misuse is strictly prohibited on MTSE trips. Violations of local laws, MTSE policy regarding alcohol and drug consumption and/or Westminster College Student Code of Conduct and corresponding policies may result in: (i) immediate dismissal from the MTSE program, or (ii) referral to the Dean of Students for conduct violation upon return to campus.

Alcohol misuse is defined as any use that is harmful or potentially harmful to yourself or others and is prohibited conduct on a MTSE trip. Alcohol misuse is present when:

1) A student misses any scheduled event because of the effects of alcohol consumption;
2) A student becomes ill due to the effects of alcohol consumption;
3) A student is disrespectful of others sharing the same housing, and congregates with loud groups for social purposes.
4) A student engages in inappropriate behavior toward other individuals that as the result of alcohol consumption;
5) A student engages in destructive behavior toward property that as the result of alcohol consumption;
6) A student does not abide by the laws of the country in which he or she is staying;
7) A student engages in behavior that causes embarrassment to the other members of the group, the faculty member(s), or the in-country host(s) as a result of alcohol consumption;
8) Students in a group, facilitate/encourage or ignore a fellow student who is misusing or abusing alcohol—classmates who are visibly intoxicated should be reported to trip leaders; or
9) Transporting of alcohol to program sites with the intent of sharing the alcohol with members of the group during any program sponsored activities. This provision is specifically addressing transporting alcohol on busses, cars, etc., as the group moves from academic program place to place.

Students are encouraged to use good judgment in purchasing and consuming alcohol at restaurants, bars, private homes, or other locations. At no times will MTSE funds be used to purchase alcohol.

DRUG USE

Westminster College has a zero-tolerance policy regarding the possession, use, manufacture, production, sale, exchange, or distribution of illegal drugs by students participating in MTSE programs. Although drug laws vary from country to country, it is
important to realize that foreign countries do not react lightly to drug offenders. In some countries, anyone who is caught with even a very small quantity for personal use may be tried and receive the same sentence as a large-scale trafficker. Violations of this policy as it pertains to drug use, possession, purchase, or transport may result in: (i) immediate dismissal from the MTSE program, or (ii) referral to the Dean of Students for conduct violation upon return to campus.

**It is your responsibility to know the drug laws of a foreign country before you go.** When traveling overseas, it's important to obey the laws and regulations of the country you're visiting, especially those pertaining to drug and alcohol use. Every year, many U.S. citizen students are arrested abroad on drug charges or because of their behavior under the influence. Ignorance of the law is no excuse, so be informed.

*It is important to know that some prescription medications contain substances that are considered illegal narcotics. Before you travel, make sure your prescription medication is not considered an illegal narcotic in the host country. If you are going abroad with a preexisting medical condition, you should carry a letter from your doctor describing your condition and medications, including the generic names of prescribed drugs. Any medications carried overseas should be in their original containers and clearly labeled.

Don't accept packages from anyone. If you accept a package from someone and it contains illegal drugs or substances, the fact that you didn't know that you were carrying it will not reduce the charges. You could miss your flight, your exams, or the rest of your life during a stay behind bars.

Don't import, purchase, use, or have drugs in your possession. Drug charges can carry severe consequences, including imprisonment without bail for up to a year before a case is tried and sentences ranging from fines and jail time to years of hard labor. Some crimes even carry the penalty of death. Contraband or paraphernalia associated with illegal drug use can also get you in trouble. (Adapted from the U.S. Department of State’s Travel Warning for Students Abroad. See, [http://travel.state.gov/content/studentsabroad/en/smart-travel/drinking-and-drugs.html](http://travel.state.gov/content/studentsabroad/en/smart-travel/drinking-and-drugs.html)).

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

____ (initial) I acknowledge that I have read this document and understand my responsibilities related to alcohol consumption and the prohibition against drug use, possession, or purchase of illegal drugs while on my MTSE.

____ (initial) I understand the penalties for drug use, in some countries, can be more severe than in the United States and commonly include deportation, fines, jail time, and, in some circumstances, the death penalty.

____ (initial) I understand there is very little Westminster College or the American Embassy can or will do in the event I am caught breaking the drug laws of a country I am visiting on an MTSE program. At a minimum, my experience will be ruined.

____ (initial) I understand that I am prohibited from bringing illegal drugs* to or purchasing illegal substances while on my MTSE trip.

____ (initial) I understand that I have a responsibility to discuss issues related to alcohol misuse by other members of my trip with my trip leaders.

____ (initial) I understand that alcohol misuse, as outlined in this document, is prohibited conduct as part of the MTSE experience and that if I engaged in such behavior, disciplinary action may be taken against me.

____ (initial) I understand that if I drink, I must drink wisely, not endanger others, myself, or the relationship between Westminster College and the MTSE program hosts.

____ (initial) I understand that my travel insurance excludes expenses incurred for Injury resulting from my being legally intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol.

____ (initial) I understand that in the event I am injured as a result of my being legally intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol, I am solely responsible to pay for any medical bills or costs associated with that injury.

I have read this WESTMINSTER COLLEGE MTSE ALCOHOL AND ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT—STUDENTS and agree to comply and support these regulations with full understanding that disciplinary actions can be made against me should I choose to violate this contract, including possible dismissal from the MTSE trip (with required immediate return at my own expense) and disciplinary action upon my return to campus. I have also been informed of the possible hazards and legal consequences of alcohol and drug consumption while on my MTSE.

_________________________    ______________________
Signature          Date