



Sexual Misconduct and Relationship Violence Abroad

What you need to know



Your study abroad experience will be an exciting and memorable part of your Johnson & Wales University education. Learning about the culture and customs of your host country is an important part of preparing for this experience. You should also be prepared for potentially problematic issues that may arise abroad, including sexual misconduct and relationship violence. **The university prohibits sexual misconduct and relationship violence on and off-campus,**

which may include dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation. These offenses constitute violations of university policy, including the Prohibited Discrimination and Harassment (including Sexual Harassment) Policy, the Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence Policy and the Student Code of Conduct. Johnson & Wales University expects all members of its community to conduct themselves in a respectful and professional manner on-campus, off-campus, even while abroad.

PHONE NUMBERS

All study abroad students regardless of campus can use the following resources:

**Counseling Services
(CONFIDENTIAL)**

001-401-598-1016

001-888-222-4805 (4:30 pm-8:30 am EST)

**JWU Campus Safety & Security
(NOT CONFIDENTIAL)**

001-401- 598-1103 (24 hrs/day)

* JWU Study Abroad staff will also be notified 24 hrs/day

What you should do after an incident of sexual misconduct or relationship violence

If you believe you are the victim of sexual misconduct or relationship violence (including dating violence, domestic violence, stalking or sexual exploitation), you are encouraged to take the following steps:

GO TO A SAFE PLACE

SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION IF NECESSARY

SEEK THE ASSISTANCE OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES

CONSIDER CONFIDENTIAL COUNSELING SERVICES

If you need confidential advice and/or would like to talk to a counselor to receive support and information we encourage all students on JWU study abroad, regardless of campus, to call the Johnson & Wales University Counseling Services (001-401-598-1016). Counselors will keep any information you share with them confidential and will not be required to disclose this information to other university officials.

Understand your reporting options

We understand that this is a difficult topic.

You have several options for filing a report of Sexual Misconduct or Relationship Violence. You may pursue all, some or none of these options. If you choose to report, you are not required to file a report immediately.

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

You may file a criminal complaint by contacting the local police. A criminal complaint is governed by applicable local criminal statutes and may lead to criminal sanctions for the alleged perpetrator.

UNIVERSITY COMPLAINT

You may wish to initiate a university complaint. A university complaint is governed by university policies. Contact Campus Safety & Security to begin the process. If the alleged perpetrator is a university student, the complaint will be resolved through the Student Conduct process. Potential sanctions may include suspension or expulsion for the respondent. Complaints of this nature against members of faculty or university staff are handled by the university's Human Resources Department.

Applicable policies can be found here:

www.jwu.edu/compliance

Prohibited Discrimination and Harassment (including Sexual Harassment) Policy:

<http://catalog.jwu.edu/handbook/generalinformationandpolicies/discriminationandharassment/>

Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence Policy:

<http://catalog.jwu.edu/handbook/generalinformationandpolicies/sexualassaultpolicy/>

Student Code of Conduct:

<http://catalog.jwu.edu/handbook/studentaffairs/studentcodeofconduct/>

Think about cultural differences

Consider that the people living in your host country may interact differently with each other, in ways to which you may not be accustomed. You might notice differences in meanings of body language, and in the way people dress. Often, standards of dress, especially for women, may be more strict and conservative. Behavior that might be considered sexually harassing in the United States may be considered ordinary and acceptable in another country. Be observant, note these differences, and develop an understanding of your culture and that of the host country. Understand that some people may have very limited knowledge of the United States besides what they experience from the media. They may exhibit stereotypical views of the U.S. and its citizens, and it may take some time for some people to understand that these stereotypes do not apply to all U.S. citizens.

In the U.S., our laws require, and people expect individuals to be treated fairly and equally, without regard to their gender, race, religion, etc. In other countries, these expectations may not be the same and such laws may not exist. Attitudes toward lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered people may be more or less tolerant than in the U.S. Inform yourself of what to expect in your host country. This is especially important in regards to law enforcement authorities. Be aware of cultural and social attitudes toward sexual misconduct and relationship violence and victims of such crimes, as they may vary greatly in different countries.

Your Study Abroad advisor will be able to assist you with questions before you depart. While abroad, if you feel unsafe or uncomfortable by attitudes or conduct that you think are directed at you because of your gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or for any similar reason, reach out to your Study Abroad Advisor for support and assistance.