Illegal/illicit drugs, alcohol and smoking policy

Approved by:
Board of Directors
Foundation United World College
Costa Rica

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UWC Costa Rica is an alcohol, smoke and illegal/illicit drug free campus for all students.

Drugs

1. UWC CR is an illegal/illicit drug-free campus. The use or abuse, possession, sale or distribution of non-medicinal mood-altering chemicals such as:
   - Includes, but is not limited to: Stimulants, suppressants, marijuana, hashish, cocaine, LSD, amphetamines, barbiturates, hallucinogenic drugs (chemical or natural), other narcotic substances, drug paraphernalia and others, is prohibited:
     - On school grounds,
     - on school trips,
     - at any school-sponsored activities, or
     - while representing the school, or
     - while being a UWCCR student on or off campus, and
     - at any time during the two years with the school in Costa Rica. This includes holidays and free periods.
     - Failure to pass a drug test will not be excused on the grounds that the student’s drug use was legal in the country where the drugs were taken.
   - The transfer of legal prescription medicines between or among students, or their use by students other than those for whom they have been prescribed, is not allowed.

   Consequences for violation of the Drug Policy means that the first violation will result in a suspension and the student will be put on probation. The second violation will result in expulsion at any time during the two years at UWC Costa Rica.

2. The administration reserves the right to conduct random, ad hoc illegal/illicit drug screening, and searches/detection programs, with or without the presence of the police department. Searches must be done in the presence of at least two responsible adults, including at least one member of the Residential staff when possible. It is preferable that all roommates are present.

3. If a student is under suspicion of illegal/illicit drug possession or use, both the Area Director and the Residence Coordinator will inform the student. The student will have two options:
   - (a) Admit the use of drugs immediately and be considered for leniency, or
   - (b) Deny the use of drugs and be taken immediately to perform an illegal/illicit drug test. If the test is positive the student will be suspended.

Illegal/illicit drugs, alcohol and smoking policy
Alcohol

1. UWC Costa Rica is an alcohol-free campus for all students. The use, sale, distribution or possession of alcohol beverages on campus, school trips, at any college sponsored activities or while representing the school is prohibited.

2. Costa Rican law prohibits alcohol consumption by persons under 18 years of age both on and off campus. Students who are 18 years of age and older are allowed to consume alcohol off campus, as recognized by Costa Rican law. The College does not encourage students to drink alcohol; but should a student do so, the College expects the student to behave in a highly responsible manner.

3. Being drunk, intoxicated or in a disorderly state, inside or outside school, on school trips, at any college sponsored activities or while representing the school is prohibited for all students, no matter their age.

Consequences for violation of the Alcohol Policy means that the first time it will be considered a serious level in the Residential Life code of conduct. A second violation will be cause for suspension, and a third violation will be cause for expulsion. **If a minor is intoxicated then the consequence is a suspension, with a second violation grounds for expulsion.**

4. The employees on duty, including the security guards, are entitled to judge the state of drunkenness of a student and, if necessary, an alcohol test will be administered. If the test is not administered, another adult can confirm the behavioral state of the student, when possible. The qualitative report will be use in the disciplinary investigation. It is important that students understand that employees on duty may not always be able to administer an alcohol test and thus a student’s behavior, as judged by the personnel on duty, will be used as an indicator of drunkenness.

If the test is administered and it indicates a level of alcohol in excess of the legal limit to drive in Costa Rica, the student will be subject to the consequences as written in the code of conduct.

5. Students are not allowed to consume alcohol in the presence of staff members regardless of legal age.

6. The Administration reserves the right to conduct random checks to detect use, possession or abuse of alcohol at any time, with or without the presence of the police.
Smoking
1. Use, possession, sale or distribution of tobacco cigarettes, e-cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, electronic cigarettes, Shisha, hookah and any other device use to smoke, off or on school grounds, on school trips, at any school sponsored activities or while representing the school is prohibited.

| Consequences for students who do not respect this policy means that the first time it will be considered a serious level in the code of conduct. A second violation will be cause for suspension, and a third violation will be cause for expulsion. |

COLLUSION
Students in the presence of fellow students who violate the above policies (e.g. being in the same room as someone drinking or smoking) will be referred to the serious level of the code of conduct. This is a form of collusion and it is expected that all members of the community support and respect the regulations.

SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION
Students are informed of the regulations during the orientation process and are advised of the local risks and concerns with respect to alcohol, drugs and smoking. Students must know that drugs of all kinds are readily available locally and there are dealers who specifically target tourists and our students. Students have to be aware that it is not recommended to display obvious wealth, which also makes them vulnerable. Students must be made aware that personal safety is an issue and all students should follow the school’s advice at all times to avoid becoming victims.

The College provides further support and education through the wellness program, which includes a series of workshops on drugs, alcohol and smoking. Students are encouraged to talk about their perceptions and concerns with members of staff and Residence Assistants.

The College reserves the right to ask security personnel to check the belongings and vehicles of any members of the community entering or leaving the premises.

SUSPENSION & EXPULSION
Unless there are extenuating circumstances, when a student is suspended he/she will be put on probation. This includes monthly drug screening (for violation of the drug policy) and notification of the incident sent to the student’s parents, National Committee, and any relevant university. The second violation will result in expulsion at any time during
the two years at UWC Costa Rica. Suspensions of this nature happening on the first academic year, will be taking into account during the second academic year.

LENIENTY
In some cases, leniency may be given if a student is open about the use of drugs/alcohol and is committed to changing his/her behavior, this after been consulted by staff members who are suspicious or concern. Leniency includes monthly drug screening (for violation of the drug policy), as well as notification of the incident sent to the student’s parents and National Committee. A second violation will result in expulsion at any time during the two years at UWC Costa Rica. Leniency will not apply if the student is already cached while disrespecting the rule, neither if they were randomly chosen to do a urine test.

AMNESTY PROCESS
The College encourages students to be honest and share their concerns or misdemeanors so as to receive support to change behavior. In such instances the following consequences will apply, and will be considered as an amnesty process:

1. **IF A STUDENT proactively reports** that he/she has violated the illegal/illicit drugs & alcohol & smoking policy and/or seeks help because he/she is ill due to alcohol, tobacco or drug consumption, the student will receive a formal warning and his/her parents and National committee will be informed. The student will be offered support and counseling but he/she will be subject to ad hoc screening thereafter every month in the case of drugs. If the student is later found in violation of this policy, then he/she will automatically be expelled for illicit/illegal drugs related incidences and referred to the serious level of the code of conduct for alcohol/smoking.

2. The purpose of the above is to give a student at-risk the possibility of getting help without being immediately ‘punished’. The amnesty process also applies in case a student makes a report because of concern about the condition of his-her peer(s).

3. This is not to be confused with being caught by any member of the external or internal community in direct possession or use of illegal/illicit drugs on/off campus or alcohol/smoking on campus. In this situation, a student can expect immediate disciplinary consequences. This is regarded as disrespect of the rules and lack of honesty.

4. Any student diagnosed with a serious ‘addiction’ problem can expect to return home. The College is limited in the level of effective and suitable support it can offer.