

SACI SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY

In Florence, sexual assaults are rare and almost always involve excessive consumption of alcohol or use of illegal drugs. During Orientation, SACI students are informed about the roles that alcohol and drug abuse play in nearly all cases of sexual assault reported in Florence. Students are urged to refrain from behavior that might make them more likely victims of sexual assault, and they are advised about how to behave in ways that will minimize the likelihood that they will become victims of violent or non-violent crimes. Students are additionally informed about how to proceed should they become victims of an on-campus or off-campus sexual assault. They are told to contact as soon as possible **SACI's Title IX Coordinator, Daniela Barbato**. They are informed by the Title IX Coordinator about the importance of preserving evidence, who will aid the students, if requested, in identifying the appropriate procedures and professionals (such as independent doctors and attorneys) for reporting it to the competent law enforcement officials, and they are told which Italian law enforcement authorities such incidents should be reported to.

Upon enrolling, students are given printed information about how to contact school and police authorities at any time of the day or night. They are also given printed information about free English-language counselling services for adult victims of physical and sexual abuse that is available in Florence through the **Associazione Artemisia**, Via del Mezzetta, 1 int., 50135 Florence; phone: **055/602311-601375** or **055/603234**.

When an individual has been sexually assaulted, concerns include pregnancy, sexually-transmitted diseases (STD's), confidentiality, reporting, and collection of evidence. Should a SACI student be sexually assaulted, **SACI's Title IX Coordinator, Daniela Barbato**, is prepared to aid the student in rapidly reporting the crime to law enforcement officials, obtaining appropriate independent legal advice, and obtaining immediate and appropriate health care, which may include prophylactic treatment for STD's, emergency contraception, toxicology screens, and referral to psychotherapists and counselling services. Should the student request to change his or her academic or living situation, SACI will aid the student in making such a change, depending upon the reasonableness of the request regarding the student's academic status and/or the availability of alternative accommodations.

Should a SACI student or group of students accuse another SACI student or group of students of a sex offense, the matter will be reviewed by SACI's Title IX Coordinator. In such instances, the accuser and accused will be entitled to the same opportunities to have others present during any disciplinary proceeding. Both the accuser and the accused will be informed of the outcome (the final determination and any sanction against the accused) of any SACI disciplinary proceeding brought alleging a sex offense. Sanctions that SACI may impose following a final determination in an institutional disciplinary proceeding regarding rape, acquaintance rape, or other forcible or non-forcible sex offenses, include expulsion of the student from SACI and removal of the student from SACI housing. Should any sanctions be imposed upon a student, Italian law enforcement authorities and the U.S. Consulate in Florence will be notified by SACI of the nature of the offense and the sanctions that have been imposed by SACI.

Regarding any incident that occurs on Italian soil, Italian mandatory criminal and procedural laws will be automatically applicable to any such case, and will have precedence over any internal SACI procedure.

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