



ART HISTORY ABROAD

CODE OF CONDUCT

Suitable for the Six Week Gap Year Courses, Semester Courses and Summer Programmes.

These are the standards of AHA and how we deal with some of the realities concerning young adults today. Please read this in full because it may influence your decision to join the course.

AHA provides cultural courses of extraordinary depth and variety. Our purpose is to make the best of your time, while working hard, having fun and experiencing much. Ultimately, this course is about civilisation and civilised conduct; it is a privilege for us all to travel in this way and the aim is to embellish and elevate life both now and for the future.

We are part of the 'gap year' movement whereby we provide courses for young adults between school and university and it is a time to travel and mature. Hence you are viewed as an adult on our courses with both liberties and responsibilities. The point of this code is to reconcile your freedoms with AHA's standards and the safe and effective conduct of the course.

1. Manners

The hidden value of AHA's courses lie in the local friends we have made over the years. Unexpected opportunities come about because generations of students before you have left a memorable and good impression. Thus, we expect you to represent the best ideals of your background and to appreciate that you are a guest in another's country. In practice this means learning good manners in Italian and trying to speak Italian (or French on the Semester) when you can; when ordering supper, for example. Travellers of all ages are unattractive when they *take* rather than engage. So, a fundamental standard at AHA is that we have a sense of decorum, fun and good manners.

2. Responsibility

A - AHA provides a structured course with hotels, transport, museum bookings and amazing tuition. Yet many of the significant moments in the course happen outside tuition time, in moments of reflection or over conversations at supper. The prevailing ethos is one of inclusion, liberal thinking and enthusiasm for art, history and culture. We are travelling for a long time and it is important that you enter into the convivial, positive spirit of the course. This is not like school, there are no exams, no 'stick' to coerce you, just an intellectual adventure of the best kind. Your responsibility is to enter into this ethos.

B - Should a student behave irresponsibly by putting themselves, others or AHA at risk, AHA reserves the right to remove them from the course. (Item 9. Terms and Conditions). Likewise, should a student infringe upon another student, by bullying, for example, AHA reserves the right to remove him or her from the course. In these circumstances, AHA will not be obliged to refund fees nor will we meet the costs of return travel of the student concerned. Our procedures to remove a student are clear and can be provided on request.

3. Drugs

Italian law should be observed at all times, particularly where drugs are concerned. The Italian police take a grim view of drug taking, especially by young foreigners. AHA would send home any student found using drugs or put the matter in the hands of the police.

4. Alcohol

Drinking wine or beer with food is within Italian and British law and AHA believes that it is civilised for students to enjoy meals with alcohol if they wish, indeed social drinking is acceptable. However,

The Red House, 1 Lambeth Street, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7AG

Telephone: +44(0)1379 871800

info@arthistoryabroad.com www.arthistoryabroad.com

drunkenness is not acceptable, and students should always be ready for the next day of study with purpose. Furthermore, any sense of drinking to get drunk is abhorrent. Concepts such as 'dead drunk, pre-lash or shots' are not associated with the ethos of AHA's courses. This is dangerous and discreditable and we would invoke clause 2B if this were to happen. Furthermore, AHA cannot be held responsible for accident or damage when students are outside the company of a tutor.

Tutors will reinforce this message at the beginning of the course, as we have done for 30 years. It is the freedom to make adult choices in an educational environment that has helped AHA courses to be so magical over the years. So, we are keen to stress this balance to parents and students over 18 and furthermore to highlight that there are limits to the responsibility that can be placed upon tutors and AHA. Students may want to go out in the evening, they may not always be with a tutor and on the infrequent occasions when we go dancing, tutors cannot shepherd students – even though they may well gather everyone together at an appointed time to go back to the hotel.

5. Exclusive relationships and sex

For a course that last several weeks, the ups and downs of relationships can be seriously divisive and cause distance within the group. Hotel rooms are segregated by sex and AHA takes a very serious view when an exclusive relationship becomes a disturbance to other students. Furthermore, all 'dating apps' are forbidden, as is getting into a stranger's car, onto a moped or scooter, simply because it is madness to be in someone else's control. This is common sense and young adults must not put themselves in such danger or indeed, tutors under such strain.

6. Street safety

The cities we visit are civilised and safe, however any congregation of humanity is going to produce the unscrupulous and we therefore ask students, even though they may be 18 and experienced travellers, not to walk alone after dark. Getting lost or having an accident can be alarming especially when in another country and for this reason walking in company is wise. We advise any student under the age of 18 to be with at least 1 other student at lunch and in free time.

7. Under the age of 18

If there is a student under 18, we insist that he/she remains with a tutor after 11.00pm when not in the hotel. It is the responsibility of the student to find the tutor, rather than the tutor seeking out him/her at 11.00pm. The only exception to this arrangement would be if AHA had an alternative written agreement with the parents or guardian of the student; please ask the office for an Item 7 waiver form.

8. Consent

Students over the age of 18 have express rights within the law to privacy which can exclude their parents. However, this can create circumstances where the Lead Tutor, after consultation with the Director, assesses that parents or a guardian should be informed of a medical issue, for example. AHA's policy is that we ask students to allow us to speak to their parents. If a student does not consent to AHA speaking to their parents we will, of course, respect their view. However, should the student become a danger to themselves, others on the course or AHA itself, we will, out of a duty of care, be obliged to speak to the parents. Lastly, should a student be unable to communicate, we ask that students allow AHA to speak to their parents. If, as a student over 18 years of age, finds the above unacceptable, please contact the office on 01379 871800.

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I confirm that I have read and agree to the above Code of Conduct

Student.....Date

Printed name of Student

Parent or Guardian

Printed name of Parent or GuardianDate