

## TITLE IX INFORMATION SHEET: STUDYING ABROAD

### FOR FACULTY

#### SEXUAL ASSAULT AND STUDY ABROAD

- There is an increased risk of sexual assault while studying abroad when compared to on-campus assault rates, especially in non-English speaking countries (Kimble, Flack & Burbridge, 2013)
- Be aware of cultural norms in the abroad location, especially regarding gender and sexuality

#### REPORTING

- **As a UMW faculty member, you are a responsible employee who is mandated to report such incidents to the Office of Title IX, Title IX Coordinator**
  - UMW online reporting form:  
[https://publicdocs.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofMaryWashington&layout\\_id=10](https://publicdocs.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofMaryWashington&layout_id=10)
- Know laws about sexual assault in the country and explain them to the student
- Find out if the location has trained sexual assault or crime victim advocates or services
- Remember to empower the student by respecting her/his decisions in reporting, seeking additional help, etc.
- Be aware that some countries may not give any rights to sexual assault victims and reporting criminally may not always be best for the student

#### RESOURCES

- UMW Office of Title IX, <http://diversity.umw.edu/title-ix/>, (540) 654-2119
- Rape Abuse Incest National Network (RAINN) Online Hotline, <https://rainn.org/>, (800) 656-4673
- Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, <http://www.vsdvalliance.org/#/resources-helpayuda>, (800) 838-8238
- US State Department Victim Assistance at 1-888-407-4747 during business hours, and 202-647-5225 after hours or go to their website at [http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies\\_1748.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies_1748.html)
- This has a global list of 10,000 abuse hotlines, shelters, refuges, crisis centers and women's organizations in 110 languages in nearly 200 countries: <http://www.hotpeachpages.net/>

■ U.S Department of State,  
<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/emergencies/victims.html>

- Sexual Assault Support and Help for Americans Abroad (SASHAA), <http://sashaa.org/>, (866) 879-6636

## WHAT TO DO IF A STUDENT IS ASSAULTED

- First make sure the student is in safe environment
- Keep in mind the student might have medical needs that need to be addressed:
  - Injuries or STDs that need to be treated immediately; rape kit; a possible pregnancy
- Provide comfort/support:
  - “You are not alone”, “This is not your fault”
- The student may need an advocate for accompaniment to a police station, hospital, during legal proceedings, and/or for protection from blaming, shaming, or physical violence
- Let the student have as much control and decision-making power as possible
- Encourage the victim to receive counseling, therapy or other supportive services
- **Never promise to keep the assault information private or confidential. Remember, you are a responsible employee for UMW.**

## WAYS TO AVOID VICTIM BLAMING

- Do NOT point out ways that the victim used poor judgment or placed herself/himself at risk
- Avoid all statements or attitudes that would imply blame, criticism or judgment
- Do not ask implying questions that can be harmful and emotionally damaging to the victim. Remember sexual assault is never the victims’ fault; remind them of that. Examples of things NOT to say:
  - “What were you wearing?”
  - “How much did you drink?”
  - “Did you do something to make him/her angry?”
  - “It’s just stress”
  - “That person seems nice to me”