

Citizenship Expectations and Responsibilities for Faculty Members and Students
Attending the Center for European Studies and Architecture (CESA)
Effective, March, 2005

The privilege of residence and study at the Center for European Studies and Architecture requires a willingness on the part of all involved to conduct themselves appropriately to reside harmoniously in a learning community of faculty and student scholars.

Such a privilege requires a clear understanding of the meaning and responsibilities of citizenship while residing and studying in a foreign country and experiencing a different culture. The guiding principles include:

- Respect for residents of the host country (and community)
- Mindfulness of the laws and mores of the host country (and community)
- Willingness to positively contribute to the host country (and community)
- Openness to language study and new cultural perspectives.

Students and Faculty members serve as ambassadors not only of Virginia Tech, but as ambassadors of the United States. All of our actions and behaviors send strong messages about who we are as individuals as well as our institution and country. These behaviors are magnified by the fact we are visitors operating in a small community of 2000 persons, which is vastly different from the university-dominated environment of Blacksburg. Any negative messages linger for long periods of time. While students and faculty members spend a semester at CESA, we want the character of CESA to endure for decades and continue to develop a rich tradition of contribution to the community.

The experience of living and studying at CESA provides a unique opportunity for intellectual and personal growth. Our goal is that is that the CESA experience will be one of the most positive and enriching experiences in the lifetime of each participating faculty member and student.

In context of good citizenship, there is work to be done. An example needing serious attention is alcohol consumption.

Regrettably, in the past there have been incidents where the use (or misuse) of alcohol has created problems between the community of Riva San Vitale and CESA. In many cases these incidents reflect severe risks to the safety and security of the students involved as well as others. These incidents have been disruptive to the internal life of CESA, intruding on the positive atmosphere needed for a learning community to thrive. *It is the charge of all lead faculty members, resident staff and other CESA administrators to share in the responsibility for the security and safety of all resident students.*

The past problems have undermined the trust and respect that is vital for CESA to grow and flourish. *We must remember that we are guests in Riva San Vitale.*

If we remain mindful of this fact and allow the principles of good citizenship to guide our behavior, the possibility of future problems can be greatly minimized.

In order to address these issues more appropriately the following revised policies concerning alcohol and/or inappropriate behavior have taken effect with the entering academic classes of Fall, 2004 and hereafter:

The possession of and/or use of alcohol in Villa Maderni, including its grounds and all leased student housing, is prohibited. Some exceptions may be granted for special occasions and situations with the approval of the responsible faculty member(s), the Resident Advisor and/or the Managing Director of CESA, each of whom needs to be informed of any request for exceptions. Only students 21 years of age and older may voluntarily consume alcohol during these situations. If students choose to consume alcohol outside of Virginia Tech premises, they are expected to do so operating within the laws and restrictions of Riva San Vitale, the Canton of Ticino and Switzerland. It is expected that students consuming alcohol outside of Virginia Tech premises maintain a civility of behavior, including special consideration of the sound level/disturbance potentially caused to local residents and residents in CESA properties.

Enforcement of this policy will be shared by all resident students, responsible faculty member(s), the Resident Advisor, the Managing Director, and other CESA staff.

The Resident Advisor (or designee of the CESA administration) is empowered to ensure adherence to this policy in all Virginia Tech owned and leased property and is responsible for recording any violations. Violations will be adjudicated by the Resident Advisor in consultation with the relevant faculty member(s) including, but not limited to, the Managing Director, the student(s) accused, and the Academic Director. All Judicial Referrals are considered confidential as specified by Federal law. Basic rules and procedures utilized in the University Judicial System will be employed. These policies and procedures can be found at <http://www.judicial.vt.edu/>. If a student receives a judicial referral at CESA, the violation will be reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs and will become part of the student's Virginia Tech judicial record. Each student's existing Virginia Tech judicial record (if one exists) is the starting point for any judicial referrals made at CESA. Thus, a student serving a "deferred suspension" in Blacksburg will be suspended if they receive a judicial referral at CESA.

If warranted, civil sanctions based on the local laws and ordinances may be enforced in addition to Virginia Tech Judicial System sanctions. The nature of specific sanctions for violations of policy will be based on the severity of the violation. Sanctions will be determined by the Resident Advisor, in consultation with, if necessary, the relevant faculty member(s), the Managing Director, the student(s) accused, and/or the Academic Director. The level and degree of sanctions will follow those administered on campus - www.judicial.vt.edu/sanctionrange.php. *The most severe sanction will result in immediate dismissal from CESA and suspension from Virginia Tech.* **Included in this policy and its administration is Virginia Tech's zero-tolerance**

position on drug violations. In the case of a dismissal, the student will be expected to return to their home country, at their own expense, for the remainder of the academic semester without benefit of refund of tuition and fees paid. Completion of academic work is not guaranteed and will be at the discretion and determination of the responsible faculty member(s) in consultation with the Academic Director and appropriate Virginia Tech authorities.

In addition to responsibilities of behavior and citizenship, all students residing at CESA are expected to adhere to the same standards of academic integrity as on the home campus, including the Undergraduate Honor System, and the Graduate Honor System. Violations may be reported by the relevant faculty member(s) or student(s) and submitted directly to the CESA Resident Advisor who will report the violation to the appropriate on campus authorities for processing and documentation.

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I have read, understand and agree to abide by all of the above expectations and policies while I am a student at CESA. I am aware of the severity of potential consequences of actions that violate these expectations and policies.

Signature _____ **Date** _____