Social Media Ethics

We expect those interacting with Overseas Study social media networks to uphold the following social media ethics, as well as the university’s mission in your online activities. In addition, students are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct as set forth by Indiana University.

1.) Be honest and fair
If you participate in an Overseas Study social network, we ask that you be honest, fair and transparent. Avoid libelous phrasing that may result in injury to the reputation or character of the university or another person.

2.) Be accurate
Never publish information that is inaccurate or questionable. It’s better to verify information with a source than have to post a correction or retraction later. Be mindful of copyright and intellectual property rights of others. Avoid plagiarism and inaccurate information by identifying and linking to sources when possible.

3.) Be respectful
If you participate in an Overseas Study social network, we ask that you be respectful, honest, and fair. Social media is intended to encourage the free flow of opposing ideas. You are more likely to achieve your goals if you act properly with a goal in mind while discussing views and issues. Avoid stereotyping by age, color, disability, ethnicity, sex, gender, gender identity, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation or veteran status, physical appearance or social status.

4.) Be accountable
Admit mistakes and correct them promptly. We recommend all conflicts of interest, affiliations, activities and personal agendas be noted. Social media should be used to invite stimulating, open and honest dialogue over informational, constructive content. It is best to abide by the same high standards to which you hold others.

5.) Think before you post
Social media is considered a public forum that is easily available and accessible. Posts and comments can and will be forwarded, copied, archived and searched years after the publication date. Do not post anything you would feel uncomfortable presenting to others. If you feel
passionate about a subject, it is recommended to delay posting until you are able to voice yourself in a clear, constructive manner. Vulgarity and aggressive dialogue will not be tolerated.

6.) Maintain confidentiality
Use good judgment in protecting personal information and in respecting the privacy of individuals. Do not post confidential or proprietary information about Indiana University, its students, alumni or employees. Please also use proper ethical judgment and follow university policies as they relate to federal requirements, such as HIPAA and FERPA. If discussing situations, please do not identify those directly involved.

The Office of Overseas Study has the right to approve all submitted all comments and entries, including those representing our office. We hold the right to request edits be made before final publishing. The office also has the right to modify or add terms or specifications to the Social Media Ethics agreement if necessary. For more information, or clarification of the code, please contact the Office of Overseas Study at overseas@indiana.edu.