



# CRIME ALERT

## AU-Brussels

Release Date: 09/15/2015

### Incident:

On Saturday, September 12, at approximately 3:00am, an attempted **sexual assault** was reported to have occurred on the AU Brussels study abroad program in entrance to the building where the student's homestay is located.

### Suspect Description:

Upon returning to their homestay, the victim was pushed from behind into her house and against a wall. The perpetrator attempted to kiss the victim, at which time she was able to fend off the suspect who fled the scene. The incident was reported to an official with AU, who informed AU Police.

### Resources:

- The sexual assault prevention coordinator (SAPC) serves to develop and implement prevention and education programs for the AU community about sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. The SAPC is also available to provide resources and referrals for survivors of sexual assault and can assist survivors in contacting counselors or a victim advocate when requested.  
The SAPC can be reached at 202-885-3055 and is a confidential resource.
- For information about resources available to victims/survivors of sexual assault, please visit the Wellness Center website at: <http://www.american.edu/ocl/wellness/sexual-assault-resources.cfm>
- Community Help Service 24 Hour Crisis Line (in English) 02-648-40-14
- AU Abroad Safety Website at <http://auabroad.american.edu/?go=healthsafety>
- In Brussels, the local Rape Crisis Network is located at:  
Sos Viol-Rue Blanche  
24-1060 Brussels  
Phone: 02-534-3636  
sosviol@brutele.be  
IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, CALL 100 or 112. FOR POLICE EMERGENCIES, CALL 101

### Safety Tips

- Walk in groups whenever possible and look out for each other. Avoid isolated and dark areas.
- Carry your cell phone and keep it accessible.
- If you are approached, take note of the person's appearance, clothing and anything unusual that will help identify the suspect.
- Be aware of the emergency telephones (yellow boxes on pillars, blue light phone towers, and red telephones) located on campus, in building lobbies, elevators, and in parking lots.
- Do not let anyone follow you into the building, or admit anyone as a guest unless they are your guest.
- Program Emergency Contacts into your cellphone.

### Risk Reduction Information

- Be aware of the frequency of sexual violence by someone you know; 9 out of 10 sexual assaults are committed by an acquaintance.
- Perpetrators often use alcohol or other drugs as a tool to commit sexual violence. Be aware of individuals who are pushing drinks on you or pressuring you to get very intoxicated.
- Be aware of red flag behavior: intimidating stares, degrading jokes or language, boundary violations, strong belief in sex/gender role stereotypes, and a history of violent behavior.
- Inform your friends. Make sure you let a friend or family member know where you are going and who you're with.

*The American University Department of Public Safety (AUDPS) notifies the campus community when crimes are reported to AUDPS or the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) which the University believes represent a continuing threat to its students or employees, in a manner consistent with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act. The University uses its best efforts to provide information that is both accurate and helpful. **Community members are encouraged to report external incidents to AUDPS to assist in the effective implementation of this program.***

If you would like a copy of this alert, please visit: <http://www.american.edu/finance/publicsafety/crimealerts.cfm>

**Emergency: 202-885-3636**