

Furman University Study Away Program: Program Expectations

Program Title: Religious, Ethnic and National Identities

Locations: Prague, Czech Republic; Olomouc, Czech Republic

Dates: May 10-30, 2023

Program Description: This course will explore religious, national, and ethnic identities using Central Europe as a lens. The course is unique in that it is a multi-disciplinary approach that draws on the Czech Republic as a kind of "laboratory" through which students can then reflect on their own religious, national and/or ethnic identities. The Czech Republic's history, politics, and ethnicity have the potential to create for our students' cognitive dissonance, creating the opportunity to examine and evaluate personal beliefs and identities. An example of cognitive dissonance is pondering how a country with a long association with Protestantism and Catholicism and filled with churches, state holidays associated with saints and Christian feasts, and numerous religious icons can also be one of the least religious countries in the world.

Academic, Environmental, Physical & Health Expectations for Participation

Below is a list of academic, environmental and physical expectations and requirements for participation in this study away program. The list captures most, but not all, requirements. If you have questions about the expectations and requirements, please check with the study away office or the program directors. Students requiring a physical or academic accommodation should contact the Student Office for Accessibility Resources (SOAR) no less than 4 months prior to the start date of the program.

	Frequency		Frequency
ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS	Always, Sometimes, Never/ Required or Optional	STUDY AWAY ENVIRONMENT	Always, Sometimes, Never/ Required or Optional
Course work in a foreign language	Never	Foreign Language Environment	Czech language
Course work in English	Always, Sometimes, Never/ Required or Optional	Terrain (Mountains, Tropical, Forest, Desert, Hilly, Flat)	Cobblestones, some hills
Laptop Required	Optional	Population: Rural, Urban, Remote, etc.	Urban, some villages/towns
Smart phone required (videos, photos, blogs)	Required	Environment (high altitude, air pollution, dusty, sandy, humid, dry, hot, cold)	Be prepared for warm weather, but bring a jacket and dress in layers
Traditional Classroom	Yes	Mosquito Borne Risk of Illness	None
Group Work	Occasionally	Is tap water safe to drink	Safe to drink
Academic Assessments (tests, journals, presentations, essays)	Essays, participation, blogs	Other Risks (natural disasters, crime, pickpocketing, etc.)	Potential for pickpocketing and exchange rate scams
Interactions with local residents	Yes	Cultural Dress Code	Modest clothing in certain religious venues
Field Work/Research	Never	Curfew	Never
Internship/ Volunteer Work	Never	Motion Sickness	Air and bus travel
Other	Observation and optional cultural events	Other	

PHYSICAL EXPECTATIONS		Frequency	
Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional		Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional	
Lifting/Carrying Own Luggage	Rolling luggage recommended	Vegetarian and Vegan Options Available at all meals	Always
Carrying equipment or program supplies	Never	Food Allergy Accommodations	Always
Standing 60+ minutes	Frequently	Group Meals	Severn group meals included
Ability to walk up one or more flights of stairs (elevators may not be available)	Always (no elevators in housing)	Cooking for oneself	Yes/Optional
Hiking (easy to strenuous; frequency; miles)	No/Optional	Host family prepares meals	Never
Walking 3+ miles per day	Sometimes	Healthcare easily accessible	Always
Use of public transportation (buses, trams, trains, subways)	Always	Quality of Healthcare	Excellent
LIVING ARRANGEMENTS		WATER ACTIVITIES	
Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional		Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional	
Host Family	Never	Swimming	None
Roommate	Always	Snorkeling	None
Shared Apartment	Always (shared bedrooms, bath and kitchen)	SCUBA	None
Dormitory	Never	Boat, canoes or other water activities	None
Camping	Never	Sea sickness	None
Hotel	Never	Other	
Cell phone signal available	Always	Center for Disease Control Recommendations: https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/czech-republic	
Internet signal available	Always		
Refrigerator Access	Always		
Air Conditioning	No		
Other	Housing includes wifi, laundry facilities, microwave and stove.)		