

Furman University Study Away Program: Program Expectations

Program Title: Competition in Sport and Religion: Spectacles, Myths, Beliefs and Rituals in the Mediterranean (Italy and Turkey)

Locations: Venice, Florence, Rome and Pompeii, Italy; Istanbul, Izmir, Turkey

Dates: 8 weeks on-campus at Furman for spring semester until March 12 followed by approximately 6 weeks off-campus. Depart March 12, 2024; Return April 24, 2024.

Program Description: This program investigates notions of competition and spectacle in a select area of the former Roman Empire. We explore notions of religious and athletic competition and spectacle in classical antiquity, medieval, and modern times, examining rituals and performances, visual culture, architecture, and texts/myths. The program spends approximately 8 weeks on campus followed by approximately 6 weeks of traveling in Italy and Turkey. Spring 2024 is a particularly opportune time to witness major fasts, feasts, and festivals of the Abrahamic religions: we will be in Rome during Holy Week at the Vatican. We will be in Istanbul toward the end of the month of Ramadan and during the major Muslim holiday of Eid ul-Fitr, and students will be able to observe both celebrations. Our travels will conclude during the first days of Passover and we will observe Sephardic Jewish Passover traditions in Izmir, Turkey. We will also observe a few modern examples of athletic feasts and competitions,

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. All four classes are taught by the Furman faculty directors.	Foreign Language Environment	Always. Italian is spoken in Italy and Turkish is spoken in Turkey.
Course work in English	Always.	Terrain (Mountains, Tropical, Forest, Desert, Hilly, Flat)	Most areas are hilly, often steps are part of the terrain and sidewalks may be cobblestone or uneven
Laptop Required	Yes, helpful for writing assignments	Population: Rural, Urban, Remote, etc.	Urban
Smart phone required (videos, photos, blogs)	Yes	Environment (high altitude, air pollution, dusty, sandy, humid, dry, hot, cold)	The program will be in March - April in Italy and Turkey. Temperatures will go from cool to quite hot by the end of the program.
Traditional Classroom	No. Meeting space in hotels or impromptu meetings in museums and restaurants.	Mosquito Borne Risk of Illness	No
Group Work	Sometimes.	Is tap water safe to drink	Usually
Academic Assessments (tests, journals, presentations, essays)	tests, journals, presentations, papers, quizzes, participation	Other Risks (natural disasters, crime, pickpocketing, etc.)	Exercise vigilance in urban settings to avoid pickpocketing.
Interactions with local residents	yes	Cultural Dress Code	Modest, conservative clothing will be required to enter religious venues. This means skirts and shorts must cover the knees (for both men and women) and shoulders must also be covered. Women should bring a scarf to cover their hair.
Field Work/Research	No	Curfew	None
Internship/ Volunteer Work	No	Motion Sickness	Buses will take routes with winding roads. Students prone to motion sickness should sit in the front and alert the program directors.
Other		Claustrophobia	Some underground caverns will be visited such as catacombs, and underground cities.

PHYSICAL EXPECTATIONS		HEALTH & DIET	
Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional		Frequency	
Lifting/Carrying Own Luggage	Students are responsible for carrying their own luggage. This program travels frequently from hotel to hotel and students will need to bring their luggage to the bus and potentially up several flights of stairs in hotels.	Vegetarian and Vegan Options Available at all meals	Yes - please remind program directors
Carrying equipment or program supplies	No	Food Allergy Accommodations	Yes - please remind program directors
Standing 60+ minutes	Sometimes in museums and on tours	Group Meals	Some group meals in restaurants
Ability to walk up one or more flights of stairs (elevators may not be available)	Yes - also students may have to go up and down stairs with their own luggage as many hotels do not have elevators	Cooking for oneself	Never
Hiking (easy to strenuous; frequency; miles)	No hiking, but definitely lots of urban walking	Host family prepares meals	No
Walking 3+ miles per day	Very often. The daily average is around 3-5 miles of walking.	Healthcare easily accessible	Yes
Use of public transportation (buses, trams, trains, subways)	Sometimes (subways)	Quality of Healthcare	Good
LIVING ARRANGEMENTS		WATER ACTIVITIES	
Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional		Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional	
Host Family	Never	Swimming	No
Roommate	Always - double occupancy hotel rooms	Snorkeling	No
Shared Apartment	No	SCUBA	No
Dormitory	No	Boat, canoes or other water activities	No
Camping	No	Sea sickness	No
Hotel	Yes, always	Other	
Cell phone signal available	Yes	Center for Disease Control Recommendations: Be up-to-date with routine vaccinations, COVID vaccination and COVID booster(s). https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/italy https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/turkey	
Internet signal available	Yes, in hotels		
Refrigerator Access	No. Contact program director if a refrigerator is required for medications		
Air Conditioning	No (very rare)		
Other			