

Furman University Study Away Program: Program Expectations

Program Title: International Perspectives on Education

Locations: Finland and the Czech Republic

Dates: May 8-27, 2024

Program Description: This program provides an in-depth focus on public education from a cultural and sociological perspective. Students will compare and contrast the education in the United States with Finland (Helsinki & Oulu) & the Czech Republic (Prague), two high achieving countries with different approaches to schooling. Includes school visits, cultural tours including the Arctic Circle, workshops, and local guest speakers. Special attention focuses on accommodation of ethnic minorities and immigrant populations.

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.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS	Frequency
	Always, Sometimes, Never/ Required or Optional
Course work in a foreign language	Never
Course work in English	Always
Laptop Required	Optional/Recommended
Smart phone required (videos, photos, blogs)	Optional
Traditional Classroom	Sometimes
Group Work	Sometimes
Academic Assessments (tests, journals, presentations, essays)	1 blog post, 3 essays
Interactions with local residents	Frequently
Field Work/Research	School observations
Internship/ Volunteer Work	Never
Other	

STUDY AWAY ENVIRONMENT	Frequency
	Always, Sometimes, Never/ Required or Optional
Foreign Language Environment	Finnish and Czech
Terrain (Mountains, Tropical, Forest, Desert, Hilly, Flat)	Hills, cobblestones
Population: Rural, Urban, Remote, etc.	Some rural, mostly urban
Environment (high altitude, air pollution, dusty, sandy, humid, dry, hot, cold)	Possible snow in Finland, wide range of temperatures
Mosquito Borne Risk of Illness	None
Is tap water safe to drink	Yes
Other Risks (natural disasters, crime, pickpocketing, etc.)	Pickpocketing possible in large tourist areas.
Cultural Dress Code	Business casual recommended
Curfew	None
Motion Sickness	Bus travel
Other	

PHYSICAL EXPECTATIONS	Frequency
	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Lifting/Carrying Own Luggage	Sometimes
Carrying equipment or program supplies	Never
Standing 60+ minutes	Frequently
Ability to walk up one or more flights of stairs (elevators may not be available)	Frequently
Hiking (easy to strenuous; frequency; miles)	Never
Walking 3+ miles per day	Frequently
Use of public transportation (buses, trams, trains, subways)	Always/daily
Other	Wheelchair accessibility is limited.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS	Frequency
	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Host Family	Never
Roommate	Always
Shared Apartment	Never
Dormitory	Never
Camping	Never
Hotel	Always
Cell phone signal available	Always
Internet signal available	Always
Refrigerator Access	Possibly/Unknown
Air Conditioning	Unknown
Other	

HEALTH & DIET	Frequency
	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Vegetarian and Vegan Options Available at all meals	Always
Food Allergy Accommodations	Always
Group Meals	Sometimes
Cooking for oneself	Never
Host family prepares meals	Never
Healthcare easily accessible	Always
Quality of Healthcare	Excellent
Other	

WATER ACTIVITIES	Frequency
	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Swimming	Never
Snorkeling	Never
SCUBA	Never
Boat, canoes or other water activities	Never
Sea sickness	Never
Other	

Center for Disease Control Recommendations:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/finland>

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/czech-republic>