

Furman University Study Away Program: Program Expectations

Program Title: Religious, Ethnic, and National Identities: Poland

Locations: Krakow, Gdansk, and Warsaw, Poland

Dates: May 14, 2025 - June 2, 2025

Program Description: Students will explore religious, national, and ethnic identities using Central Europe as the lens. The course is multi-disciplinary and draws on Poland as the "laboratory" through which students can then reflect on their own religions, national and/or other ethnic identities. Poland's history, politics, and ethnicity have the potential to create cognitive dissonance, making the opportunity to examine and evaluate personal beliefs and identities.

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	STUDY AWAY ENVIRONMENT	Frequency Always, Sometimes, Never/ Required or Optional
Course work in a foreign language	Never	Foreign Language Environment	Always
Course work in English	Always	Terrain (Mountains, Tropical, Forest, Desert, Hilly, Flat)	Weather can be unpredictable in May. Bring clothing for warmth and protection from rain.
Laptop Required	Not required.	Population: Rural, Urban, Remote, etc.	Mostly urban
Smart phone required (videos, photos, blogs)	Required	Environment (high altitude, air pollution, dusty, sandy, humid, dry, hot, cold)	Weather can be unpredictable in May. Bring clothing for warmth in mornings and evenings and protection from rain.
Traditional Classroom	3 times per week there will be a classroom setting for part of the day. Classroom time will be for speakers and debriefs in hotel meeting spaces. Most of the course will be conducted out and about.	Mosquito Borne Risk of Illness	No
Group Work	Pairs of students will work on a blog.	Is tap water safe to drink	Bottled water is the preferred drinking option.
Academic Assessments (tests, journals, presentations, essays)	Essays, blog, participation, comportment	Other Risks (natural disasters, crime, pickpocketing, etc.)	Be cautious in big cities due to crimes of opportunity such as pickpocketing.
Interactions with local residents	Sometimes there will be intentional opportunities to interact with local students and our guest speakers.	Cultural Dress Code	Not necessarily, but students should dress respectfully and appropriately for the activities of each day (going to religious spaces or memorial spaces like Auschwitz).
Field Work/Research		Curfew	No
Internship/ Volunteer Work		Motion Sickness	Poland is a relatively flat country, and group bus drives will not include curving roads.
Other		Other	

PHYSICAL EXPECTATIONS	Frequency Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Lifting/Carrying Own Luggage	Sometimes. Students will be responsible for their own luggage
Carrying equipment or program supplies	No.
Standing 60+ minutes	Frequently. We will spend multiple hours on our feet and will be standing regularly during the program.
Ability to walk up one or more flights of stairs (elevators may not be available)	Sometimes
Hiking (easy to strenuous; frequency; miles)	No
Walking 3+ miles per day	There will be walking (10-15,000 steps per day) and stairs, cobblestone streets, and some hilly terrain mostly in urban areas.
Use of public transportation (buses, trams, trains, subways)	Yes, there will be some use of public transportation during the program and in students own free time
Other	

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS	Frequency Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Roommate	Yes
Hotel	Yes with double rooms
Cell phone signal available	Yes
Internet signal available	Yes
Refrigerator Access	Should a student need to refrigerate medications, we can make inquiries.
Air Conditioning	Air conditioning is uncommon and should not be expected in hotels
Laundry	We will help students identify laundromats
Other	

HEALTH & DIET	Frequency Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Vegetarian and Vegan Options Available at all meals	Yes
Food Allergy Accommodations	Yes, most accommodations can be made.
Group Meals	All breakfasts are included. 4 Group Dinners are included in the program fees. Students will need to pay for 18 lunches and 14 dinners on their own.
Cooking for oneself	No
Healthcare easily accessible	Yes
Quality of Healthcare	Good
Other	

WATER ACTIVITIES	Frequency Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Swimming	Day at a beach on the Baltic Coast. May be too cold for swimming in May.
Boat, canoes or other water activities	May be a boat on the Baltic as transportation to a day trip destination that lasts approximately 1 hour each way.
Sea sickness	Possibly
Other	

Center for Disease Control Recommendations at website below
https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/poland?s_cid=ncezid-dgmg-travel-single-001