

Furman University Study Away Program: Program Expectations

Program Title: Exploring Education in South Carolina & New Zealand

Locations: New Zealand

Dates: May 14-17 on campus; May 18-June 4 overseas

Program Description: Students will compare and contrast the public education systems and teacher preparation programs of South Carolina and New Zealand. Although both Western systems serve a similar percentage of minority populations, New Zealand distinguishes itself with its student-centered, cultural asset approach to education and the flexibility and autonomy awarded schools. To examine such differences, participants will spend a week in Auckland, the largest city in New Zealand, and five days in Wellington, the capital and political center of the country. The trip will conclude on the South Island in picturesque Christchurch, the country's second largest city. Schools visited will emphasize the use of technology, student-centered classrooms, and inclusion of diverse populations. These visits, along with the school visits in the Upstate, will prepare students for assignments in which they compare topics such as educational policy and its impact on curriculum, learning spaces, classroom management and creating a classroom community, and the role of testing.

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	English and some Maori
Course work in English	Always	Terrain (Mountains, Tropical, Forest, Desert, Hilly, Flat)	Hilly, flat, some beaches
Laptop Required	Always	Population: Rural, Urban, Remote, etc.	Urban
Smart phone required (videos, photos, blogs)	Optional	Environment (high altitude, air pollution, dusty, sandy, humid, dry, hot, cold)	Moderate to cool temperatures
Traditional Classroom	Sometimes	Mosquito Borne Risk of Illness	No risk
Group Work	Sometimes	Is tap water safe to drink	Safe to drink
Academic Assessments (tests, journals, presentations, essays)	Presentations, blogs, reflection assignments	Other Risks (natural disasters, crime, pickpocketing, etc.)	Possible earthquakes
Interactions with local residents	Always	Cultural Dress Code	Sometimes
Field Work/Research	Field work	Curfew	No risk
Internship/ Volunteer Work	Never	Motion Sickness	Plane, bus and ferry boat travel
Other	Required readings	Other	

	Frequency		Frequency
PHYSICAL EXPECTATIONS	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional	HEALTH & DIET	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Lifting/Carrying Own Luggage	Expected	Vegetarian and Vegan Options Available at all meals	Always
Carrying equipment or program supplies	Never	Food Allergy Accommodations	Always
Standing 60+ minutes	Not often	Group Meals	Sometimes
Ability to walk up one or more flights of stairs (elevators may not be available)	Sometimes	Cooking for oneself	Never
Hiking (easy to strenuous; frequency; miles)	Optional	Host family prepares meals	Never
Walking 3+ miles per day	Sometimes	Healthcare easily accessible	Always
Use of public transportation (buses, trams, trains, subways)	Sometimes	Quality of Healthcare	Excellent
LIVING ARRANGEMENTS	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional	WATER ACTIVITIES	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Host Family	Never	Swimming	Optional
Roommate	Always	Snorkeling	No
Shared Apartment	Never	SCUBA	No
Dormitory	Never	Boat, canoes or other water activities	Optional
Camping	Never	Sea sickness	Potential
Hotel	Always	Other	
Cell phone signal available	Always		
Internet signal available	Always		
Refrigerator Access	Upon request		
Air Conditioning	Always		
Other			

Center for Disease Control Recommendations: