

Furman University Study Away Program: Program Expectations

Program Title: Health and Medicine in the Global Context

Locations: Lisbon, Portugal

Dates: May 14-June 6, 2025

Program Description: This global clinical course is aimed to provide students an opportunity to examine health care delivery while observing clinical practice in a geopolitical context different from that of the United States. The course will center on the clinical practice and analyze social determinants affecting service delivery, patient experience, and health outcomes. Students will start in Greenville to establish a comparative perspective before departing to Lisbon, Portugal to begin AAMC-compliant clinical observations in conjunction with Atlantis. This course provides an opportunity for students with aspirations of attending health professional schools to gain clinical exposure and firsthand experience to drive comparative analyses of global healthcare models. Students will spend a minimum of 20 hours a week in the hospital environment shadowing n pairs, generally between 9am - 2pm, although the hours will change depending on the day, hospital and specialty. One day per week is reserved for an organized group excursion of cultural, regional or historical interest.

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	Portuguese
Course work in English	Always	Terrain (Mountains, Tropical, Forest, Desert, Hilly, Flat)	Very hilly, cobblestones
Laptop Required	Always	Population: Rural, Urban, Remote, etc.	Urban
Smart phone required (videos, photos, blogs)	Always	Environment (high altitude, air pollution, dusty, sandy, humid, dry, hot, cold)	Higher altitude, warm temperatures, humid
Traditional Classroom	Never	Mosquito Borne Risk of Illness	No/low risk
Group Work	Always	Is tap water safe to drink	Yes
Academic Assessments (tests, journals, presentations, essays)	Journals, Presentations	Other Risks (natural disasters, crime, pickpocketing, etc.)	Pickpocketing in cities
Interactions with local residents	Always	Dress Code	In hospital setting
Field Work/Research	Never	Curfew	No
Internship/ Volunteer Work	Never	Motion Sickness	Potential for plane travel
Other	Clinical observation	Other	

	Frequency		Frequency
PHYSICAL EXPECTATIONS	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional	HEALTH & DIET	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Lifting/Carrying Own Luggage	Sometimes (up flights of stairs)	Vegetarian and Vegan Options Available at all meals	Always
Carrying equipment or program supplies	Never	Food Allergy Accommodations	Always
Standing 60+ minutes	Always	Group Meals	Two dinners, 1 lunch per week
Ability to walk up one or more flights of stairs (elevators may not be available)	Always	Cooking for oneself	Kitchens are available
Hiking (easy to strenuous; frequency; miles)	One easy hike	Host family prepares meals	Never
Walking 3+ miles per day	Always, up to 6-7 miles per day	Healthcare easily accessible	Always
Use of public transportation (buses, trams, trains, subways)	Always	Quality of Healthcare	Excellent
Other		Other	For the healthcare setting, students are required to be tested for tuberculosis within one year of travel.
LIVING ARRANGEMENTS	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional	WATER ACTIVITIES	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Host Family	Never	Swimming	Optional at beach
Roommate	Always	Snorkeling	
Shared Apartment	Always	SCUBA	
Dormitory	Never	Boat, canoes or other water activities	Optional at beach
Camping	Never	Sea sickness	
Hotel	Never	Other	
Cell phone signal available	Always		
Internet signal available	Always		
Refrigerator Access	Always		
Air Conditioning	Likely not; fans available in apartments. No air conditioning in clinical settings.		
Other	Washing machine for clothes (no dryer)		

Center for Disease Control Recommendations:
<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/portugal>