

Furman University Study Away Program: Program Expectations

Program Title: First-Year Chinese Studies Experience (Taiwan)

Locations: Taipei, Taiwan

Dates: May 14 - June 4, 2025

Program Description: The First Year Chinese Studies Experience (FCSE) offers selected students a three week fully funded study tour of Taiwan in May after their freshman year. FCSE student participants will take two semesters of Chinese their first year at Furman. This May X program will delve into Taiwan’s environmental issues as we explore its varied and spectacular terrain. Our travels will take us to the financial and political capital of Taipei, mines, farms, ethnic villages, breathtaking mountain gorges, ports, and coastlines. We will visit with villagers, government officials, NGO leaders, scholars, and scientists all working on and affected by Taiwan’s environmental conditions. We are confident your experience with this May X program will forever change how you understand both yourself and the world.

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 expectatiосn 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	Always for the Chinese language course. The Furman course will be taught in English and films will be subtitled.	Foreign Language Environment	Always
Course work in English	For the Furman-taught cinema course only.	Terrain (Mountains, Tropical, Forest, Desert, Hilly, Flat)	Taipei is hilly
Laptop Required	Yes, it is a good idea to have a laptop or something for writing papers.	Population: Rural, Urban, Remote, etc.	Urban
Smart phone required (videos, photos, blogs)	Yes.	Environment (high altitude, air pollution, dusty, sandy, humid, dry, hot, cold)	Hot and humid in August/September like in Southern Florida. Pleasant 70s to 80s in October and November.
Traditional Classroom	Yes.	Mosquito Borne Risk of Illness	Possible risk of dengue fever from mosquitos
Group Work	Sometimes	Is tap water safe to drink	No, boil first
Academic Assessments (tests, journals, presentations, essays)	Oral, written, and listening tests and assignments in Chinese. Tests, journals, and presentations in the cinema course.	Other Risks (natural disasters, crime, pickpocketing, etc.)	Very safe
Interactions with local residents	Yes	Cultural Dress Code	Modest, but also modern
Field Work/Research	No	Curfew	None
Internship/ Volunteer Work	No	Motion Sickness	Winding roads on a bus during excursions. Students with a history of motion sickness can sit in the front of the bus.
Other		Other	

PHYSICAL EXPECTATIONS		Frequency	HEALTH & DIET		Frequency
		Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional			Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Lifting/Carrying Own Luggage	Yes		Vegetarian and Vegan Options Available at all meals	Yes	
Carrying equipment or program supplies	No		Food Allergy Accommodations	Yes	
Standing 60+ minutes	During activities and excursions standing may be required.		Group Meals	On excursions	
Ability to walk up one or more flights of stairs (elevators may not be available)	Yes		Cooking for oneself	Possibly, but many students will also choose to eat in local shops. Very inexpensive food options. A monthly meal stipend will be provided to be used at the shops.	
Hiking (easy to strenuous; frequency; miles)	Not necessarily hiking, but some walking on excursions.		Host family prepares meals	No	
Walking 3+ miles per day	5 miles of walking may be required occasionally during excursions, but on a typical day, the housing is located close to the classroom.		Healthcare easily accessible	Yes	
Use of public transportation (buses, trams, trains, subways)	Frequent use of subway		Quality of Healthcare	Good	
LIVING ARRANGEMENTS		Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional	WATER ACTIVITIES		Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Host Family	No		Swimming	No	
Roommate	Yes, local Taiwanese roommate		Snorkeling	No	
Shared Apartment	Yes		SCUBA	No	
Dormitory	No		Boat, canoes or other water activities	No	
Camping	No		Sea sickness	No	
Hotel	Possibly during excursions. Double room		Other		
Cell phone signal available	Yes		<p>Center for Disease Control Recommendations:</p> <p>https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/taiwan</p>		
Internet signal available	Yes				
Refrigerator Access	Yes				
Air Conditioning	Probably not				
Other					