



FURMAN

Background to May Experience Study Away

Furman's semester-plus academic calendar incorporates a traditional semester model with a distinctive optional May Experience three-week term following spring commencement. The May Experience term is designed to encourage innovative and intensive academic experiences and also allow for shorter study-away trips. Academic travel is a distinctive feature of Furman's academic program and the May Experience term offers an additional avenue to enhance the vitality and academic quality of such faculty-led travel study programs.

While the ad hoc May Experience Committee will have oversight responsibility for the program for the first two years, the Office for Study Away & International Education and the Study Away Committee will have primary responsibility for May Experience programs that involve a study away component (either domestic or international travel).

As per Policy 190.8, *Study Away Committee Operating Procedures*, "The Study Away Committee is responsible for working with the administration and academic departments to develop and maintain study away programs and to review affiliated and student exchange programs. Hence, new study away programs within the May Experience term must be approved by all relevant departments, the Study Away Committee, the general faculty, and the academic administration."

Proposing New May Experience Study Away Programs:

If your department(s) wishes to develop a new May Experience study away program, this should be discussed with the *Assistant Dean for Study Away & International Education*. This is the first step in the process. Following this initial consultation, draft proposals for new study away programs may be submitted to the Assistant Dean for Study Away using the attached form. This in turn will be submitted to the *Study Away Committee* and the *ad hoc May Experience Committee*. The committees will evaluate the proposal and, if approved, will present the proposal to the faculty for formal approval. Faculty directors for May Experience Study Away programs must secure the approval of the Assistant Dean for Study Away & International Education prior to any marketing, advertising, recruiting, planning or scheduling of the proposed travel study. The above steps are necessary to preserve the academic integrity of Furman's travel-study programs.

Furman's travel-study programs seek to cultivate in our students values such as openness, tolerance and mutual respect of other cultures, civic responsibility, global awareness and bold intellectual inquiry. Accordingly, your May Experience study away proposal must demonstrate how your proposed course of study is consistent with Furman's overall quest for academic excellence and liberal learning. The proposal must illustrate the rationale for conducting the travel study and how this is in harmony with the overall academic curriculum. It must establish the significance and importance of the location to the overall learning experience that students will derive. Department support for faculty directors to sustain the program long-term, as well as general trends and demand from students should be articulated. A brief itinerary and a budget projection should accompany the proposal.