

The Cothran Center
FOCUS: Northern Ireland 2027 | *Program Application*
Spring Break (Fri., Feb. 26 – Sat., Mar. 6, 2027)

BASIC INFORMATION

Preferred Name (first and last):

Preferred Pronouns:

Date of Birth:

E-mail:

Mobile Phone:

Home Address:

Class:

(This program is for sophomore students – in the 2nd year of college, not by credits only.)

Major(s) (if known):

Minor(s) (if applicable):

SHORT RESPONSES

The use of Generative AI tools that write text for you (such as ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Canva, etc.) is not permitted for this application. We want to get to know you, so all answers must be 100% your original thoughts and reflections. Students who are suspected of having violated this policy will not be selected for the program.

(Please compete by typing your answers below each question.)

1. What aspect(s) of the FOCUS program in Northern Ireland appeals to you the most, and what do you most want to gain from the experience?

2. How do you hope this program will help you think more about your life's purpose and what brings meaning to your life (what some may describe as your "calling")?

3. Describe some aspect of your life (job experiences, family, service to community, faith, etc.) that has helped you so far in thinking about what brings meaning and purpose in your life.

4. A significant aspect of this experience involves engaging across difference. Describe a time when you engaged with others who are different from you. How did you feel in the situation? (Areas to consider: religion, politics, ethnicity, age, gender, ability, race, sexual orientation, etc.)

5. Growing up, what did travel look like for you and your family? Have you ever traveled as a part of an organized trip through a school or Furman program? Describe how you expect this trip to be similar to and/or different from your previous travel experiences.

6. A recurring theme of our time in Northern Ireland will be conflict and reconciliation. How were you taught to handle conflict? Give an example of a time when you encountered conflict and how you navigated it.

7. List any extracurricular clubs/organizations with which you are involved at Furman along with some of your hobbies or personal interests. Where have you found the most belonging at Furman and why? (If you haven't found belonging at Furman, please state that as well.)

8. How did you find out about this program?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please learn a little about the The Corrymeela Community by viewing their website <https://www.corrymeela.org/>. Corrymeela is an alcohol and drug-free campus. Please *initial* here to indicate that you have reviewed information about Corrymeela and you agree to abide by the substance-free policy on this trip.

_____ (type initials here)

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

1) Personal Statement: What is something unique you would bring to the group?

We would like to know something unique that you, in particular, can bring to this experience. In the most creative way possible (**not an essay**) tell us about yourself and why we should select you for the program. This should be exclusive to this application - please do not include something that you've previously made. Some suggestions are:

- a) Something that you create related to a hobby or major with a brief explanation;
- b) A creative video of three minutes or less;
- c) An original artistic piece (visual, musical, poetry, etc.) with a brief explanation.
- d) Your own original idea!

2) Passport:

Include either **a)** a copy of the photo page in your **passport** **OR** **b)** a copy of your completed **passport application with the date it was mailed for processing** (*You must have a passport for travel to Ireland and Northern Ireland (U.K.). This is an additional cost and processing the application can take up to 6 months. If you have questions about applying for a passport, please let us know.*)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ONLY

If you are not a U.S. Citizen, an additional visa to the U.K. may be required in advance of the trip. This will be an additional cost to you and the application process can take several weeks to process, including not having your passport for a period of time. Please visit this website <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa> to review the visa application requirements and sign below.

Past participants who were international students have had various experiences with the visa application process and obtaining their visas in time to participate. If you have questions about this, please come talk to one of us before you apply.

Signature _____

Date _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

Students **should explain the basic purpose of this program to two references** and email them the following link for the recommendation form:

https://furman.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9Ad83fb044D4uma

- 1) At least one of these forms must be completed by a member of the Furman University faculty or staff. The other one can be completed by another Furman faculty/staff member or by a former teacher, community leader, coach, pastor, etc. **(not a family member.)** *The recommenders should be able to speak about your potential for participation in, and contribution to, an engaging travel/learning opportunity based in the Northern Ireland.* The recommendation forms should be completed by the application deadline.

Reference Names: 1.)

→Furman Department:

2.)

→Other:

Please place a mark beside one of the statements below:

_____ **I do not waive my right** to access the information from my recommender. (*You may be able to access this information, including reference responses, in the future.*)

_____ **I waive my right** to access the information on the reference form. (*The recommendation form will be confidential between the reference and the Cothran Center.*)

OPTIONAL STATEMENT: FINANCIAL NEED

Students are responsible for paying \$800 towards their participation. The total cost of the program is approximately \$2,500/per person; however, the Cothran Center significantly subsidizes the cost for students to participate.

In addition, the Cothran Center has a **limited number of partial scholarships** (towards the \$800 fee) for students with demonstrated financial need. If you would like to be considered for one of these partial scholarships, please include a *brief* statement describing your need for additional financial assistance. Your submission of this statement also allows us to consult with Furman's Office of Financial Aid about your level of need. (If you have any questions or concerns about this process before completing and/or submitting your application, please let us know.)

CHECKLIST

- ◇ Completed Northern Ireland 2027 Application
- ◇ Personal Statement
- ◇ Review information about the Corrymeela Community on their website
- ◇ 2 Recommendations (***you must email the link to your references***)
- ◇ Passport Copy or Completed Passport Application
- ◇ International Students ONLY: Review Visa requirements and provide signature
- ◇ Optional Statement: Financial Need
- ◇ Signature Page (see next page)
- ◇ Submit all application information to the Cothran Center office (LIB 040) or email to cothran.center@furman.edu by **Thursday, October 15th at NOON (12:00 PM.)** Late applications will not be accepted.

FOCUS: Northern Ireland 2027 | *Signature Page*
*(please sign below and submit to the Cothran Center office –
JBD Library, suite 040 – by NOON on Thursday, October 15, 2026.)*

APPLICATION PROCESS & PROGRAM TIMELINE

- **Application Deadline:** Thursday, October 15th at NOON (12:00 PM.)
- **Interview Process (for selected students only):** Monday, Oct. 26 - Friday, Nov. 13, 2026
- **Acceptance Notification:** On or before Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2026 (via e-mail)
- **Deadline to Accept:** Monday, Nov. 30, 2026, by 5:00 PM (first deposit due: \$400)
- **MANDATORY orientation/debriefing meetings (5:00-7:00 PM – dinner is provided)**
 - Monday, December 7, 2026
 - Monday, January 11, 2027
 - Monday, January 25, 2027
 - Monday, February 8, 2027 (second deposit due: \$400)
 - Monday, February 15, 2027
 - Monday, February 22, 2027
 - Monday, March 15, 2027 (debrief)
- **Travel:** Friday, February 26 – Saturday, March 6, 2027 (Spring Break)
- **Furman Engaged:** Friday, April 9, 2027 (more information to be announced)

By signing below, I affirm that my application is complete and accurate, to the best of my ability. I also affirm that I am able to participate in all of the above mandatory meetings as well as Furman Engaged.

Signature _____ Date _____

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For additional program information, contact a member of the Cothran Center Staff:

- Rolyn Rollins, Associate Director for Student Programs, rolyn.rollins@furman.edu
- John Harris, Director, john.harris@furman.edu
- Whitney Brown, Associate Director for Alumni and Community Programs, whitney.brown@furman.edu