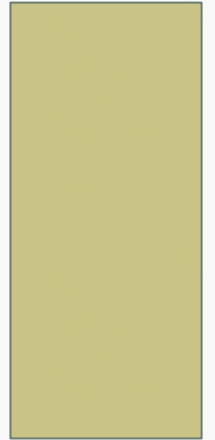


FOCUS and COMPASS 2027

NORTHERN IRELAND AND ICELAND



WHAT IS THE COTHRAN CENTER?

- The Cothran Center encourages students to reflect upon what brings meaning and purpose to their lives and offers programs and resources to support that reflection.
- We initiate opportunities for thoughtful and open dialogue as we explore these 3 essential life questions:
 - Who am I most authentically?
 - What do I believe most deeply?
 - What does the world need from me?



QUESTION TO CONSIDER

What does “living with purpose”
mean to you?

QUOTES TO CONSIDER

- *Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive and then go and do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.*
-Howard Thurman
- *You will know your vocation by the joy that it brings you. You will know. You will know when it's right.*
-Dorothy Day
- *Our vocation, to be beautiful, must be full of thought for others.*
-Mother Theresa
- *You must be the change you wish to see in the world.*
-Mahatma Gandhi

NORTHERN IRELAND

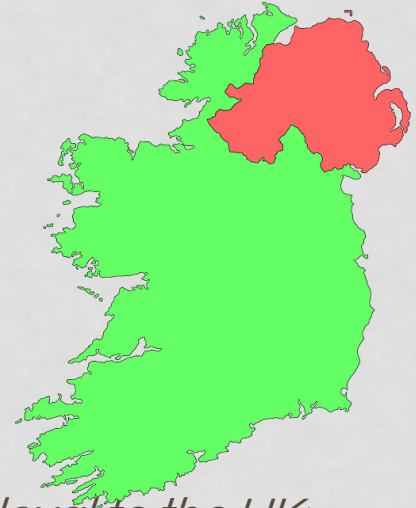
FOCUS

WHAT IS FOCUS?

- **FOCUS** is an international travel program that occurs over spring break. In years past, groups have traveled to Cuba, Mexico, and New York City. Since 2014, we have traveled to Northern Ireland.
- This program is designed for 15 sophomores (in the second year of college, not by credits only) at Furman.
- The “focus” is on exploration of meaning and purpose. While visiting Northern Ireland, students hear stories from those involved in justice and reconciliation efforts in the area, visit cities and communities, and participate in facilitated, reflective sessions and discussions.

ABOUT NORTHERN IRELAND

- Part of the United Kingdom (U.K.)
- Shares the island with the Republic of Ireland. It was partitioned from Ireland in 1921.
- History of Conflict in Northern Ireland:
 - It is divided into two communities -
 - *Protestants (Unionists/Loyalists)* <want to remain loyal to the UK>
 - *Catholics (Nationalists/Republicans)* : <want a united Ireland>
 - There is intertwined conflict amongst these communities
- The Good Friday Agreement (signed in 1998) brought greater freedom and hope for the area regarding relationships between the sides, but the conflict is far from over.



WHY NORTHERN IRELAND?

- The topic of historic conflict in Northern Ireland and ongoing peace, understanding, and reconciliation efforts provide a great opportunities for reflection during our program.
- We have a connection and partnership with **The Corrymeela Community** in Ballycastle, a center that emerged from the work of peace and reconciliation efforts in Northern Ireland.

*Corrymeela's mission is to
"Transform Division through Human Encounter"*



**In our increasingly
divided world, we
support thousands of
people from different
backgrounds to live
well together.**

WHAT WILL WE DO?

- **Visit divided neighborhoods** in cities such as Belfast and Derry/LondonDerry.
- Set aside time to **reflect**, both individually and in small groups.
- **Participate** in sessions on topics such as identity, conflict resolution, and artistic expression.
- **Listen** to stories from those involved in peace and reconciliation efforts.
- **Share** in conversation with local community members through *optional* “worship” experiences and opportunities to engage at mealtimes.
- **Visit** cultural and tourist sites, such as Giant’s Causeway and *Game of Thrones* sites.

PHOTOS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

A LOOK AT THE ADVENTURE



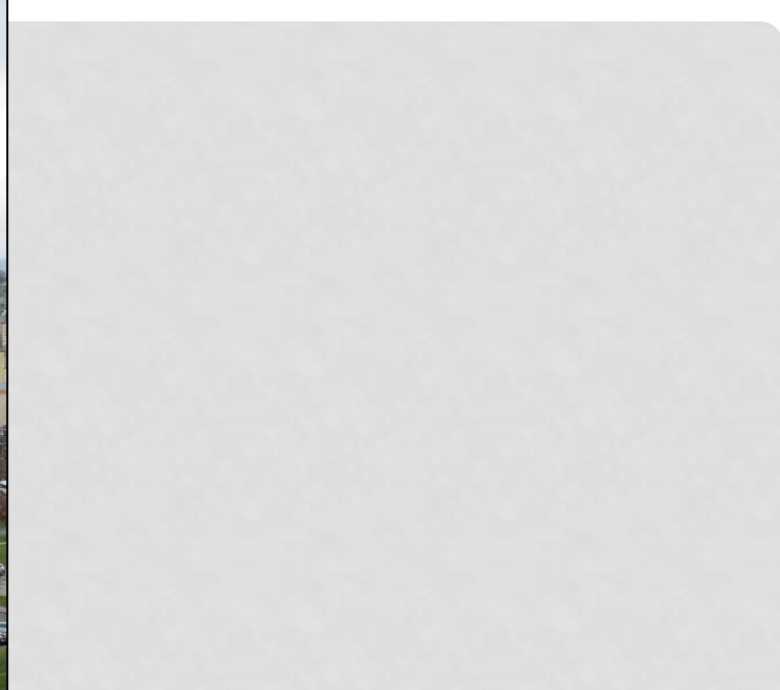
















Corrymeela Website

<https://www.corrymeela.org/>

(FYI: Ideas listed are not completely accurate to our program.)

WHO WILL BE THE LEADERS FOR FOCUS?

Whitney Brown and Dr. Mai Gum

PLEASE NOTE

If you participate in FOCUS you
cannot apply for COMPASS in the future.

ICELAND

COMPASS

WHAT IS COMPASS?

- **COMPASS** is a brand-new international travel program that will occur over spring break.
- This program is designed for 12 juniors and seniors at Furman.
- As we do with all Cothran Center programs, we will explore meaning and purpose. While in Iceland, students will engage in environmental service work, help prepare group meals, practice quiet reflection daily, and connect with the group through facilitated conversation.

ABOUT ICELAND



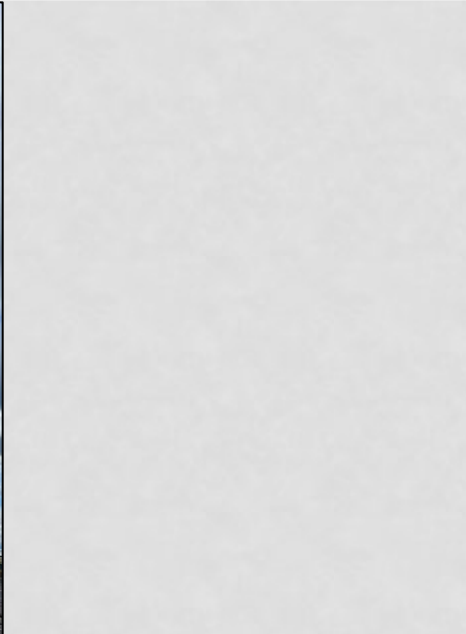
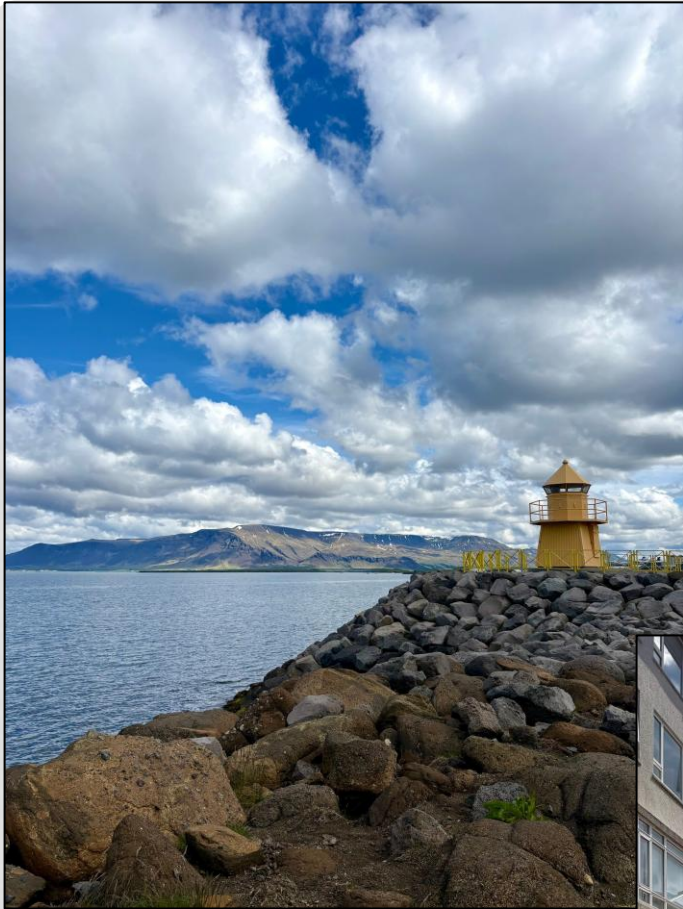
- Known as the **Land of Ice and Fire** because of its glaciers and active volcanoes.
- Approximately 400,000 people live in Iceland, with two-thirds of its residents living in and around the capital city of Reykjavik. 85% of the population are native Icelanders.
- 80% of the country is completely uninhabited because of its deserts, lava fields, and glaciers.
- It sits directly on top of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates are pulling apart, causing it to have intense geothermal activity. Geothermal energy heats homes and greenhouses, makes electricity, and forms natural hot springs.

WHY ICELAND?

- The quiet, rural setting provides exceptional space for personal reflection and mental clarity.
- There are rich opportunities for group exploration and cultural exchange through a guided daily routine.
- Potential Service opportunities:
 - ***Beach Clean-up:*** Powerful currents, the large fishing industry, and international shipping causes debris to constantly wash ashore
 - ***Reforestation:*** Seeding and mulching can help improve soil erosion
- We have a partnership with a non-profit organization call Compass Path, whose mission is to cultivate purpose, community, and character through service-learning experiences.

PHOTOS FROM ICELAND

A LOOK AT THE ADVENTURE





DAILY ROUTINE

Breakfast

Start your day with your group.

Compass Time

An hour for guided reflection and journaling to orient yourself for the day.

Service & Learning

Hands-on volunteering and cultural exchange with local partners.

Group Dinner

Shared meals, sometimes cooked together, sometimes eaten at our service sites, sometimes eaten out locally.

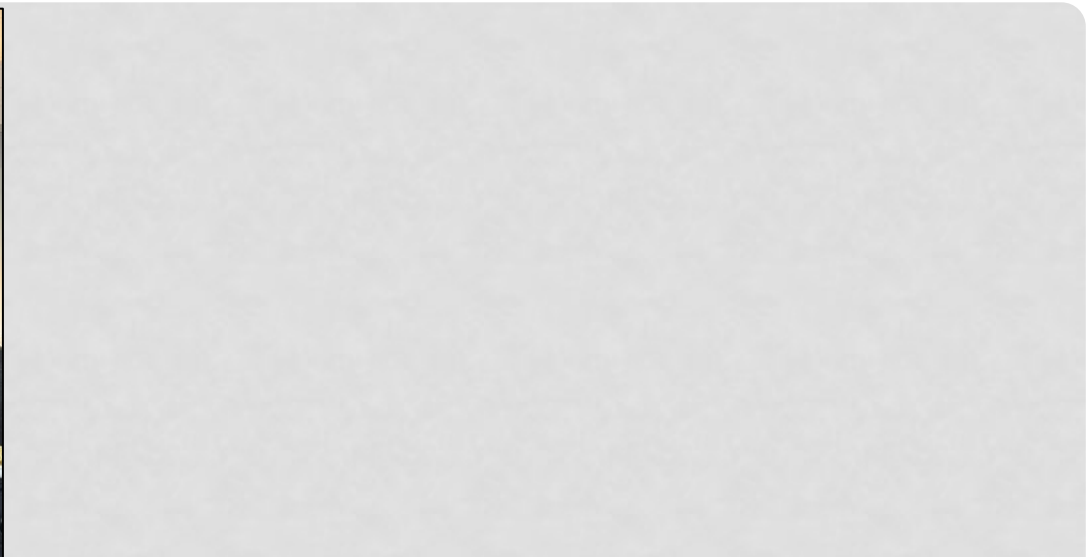
Table Talk

Guided conversations about purpose, justice, and your experiences.

Evening Activities & Free Time

Games, creative expression, quiet reflection, or group outings.







A moment with myself

What is something I'm genuinely grateful for today?

How have I been feeling lately, and what might be behind those feelings?

What is something I've accomplished recently that I'm proud of?

What is currently taking up the most space in my mind?

What is one thing I need to let go of?

If I could give my past self one piece of advice, what would I say?

What is one small thing I can do today to feel closer to the life I want?

What boundaries would make my life more peaceful?







Compass Path Websites

<https://www.compasspath.org/>
<https://www.compasspath.org/2027-info-furman>

WHO WILL BE THE LEADERS FOR COMPASS?

Dr. John Harris and Rolyn Rollins

DURING THE TRIPS WE WILL NOT . . .

- Be on vacation, with tons of free-time
- Be on a “mission trip” – these are not religious programs *(although there will be opportunities for students to connect with their faith if that is important to them)*
- Spend time attached to our digital devices (i.e., cell phones, laptops, tablets)
- Receive academic credit for the program
- Consider group activities and day travel optional (everyone participates in the entire program)
- Be able to drink alcohol – Corrymeela and Compass are both alcohol-free organizations *(and in the spirit of intentionality, we want you to remain present)*

STRUCTURE of the PROGRAMS

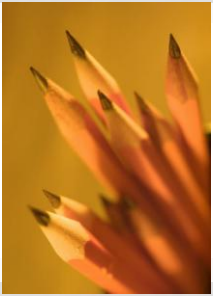
- **MANDATORY** Orientation Sessions *(Dec.-Feb. – specific dates listed on application)*
 - Get to know one another
 - Vocational Reflection Guidance
 - Logistics and preparation for Travel
- Travel Program (Spring Break)
 - In Ireland and Northern Ireland (UK) OR
 - Iceland
- Debriefing Sessions
 - Group Reflection & Conversation
 - Preparation for Furman Engaged
- Furman Engaged Presentation
 - Friday, April 9th



HOW MUCH DO THEY COST?

\$800 (with additional limited partial scholarships available)

The total cost of the program is approximately \$2,750/per person; however, the Cothran Center significantly subsidizes the cost for students to participate.



APPLICATION PROCESS

Please note: These are highly competitive programs!

- Completed application, including creative personal statement, passport copy or application, signature page, AND recommendation forms, must be submitted by Thursday, October 15th at NOON. (All materials must be in by that date. We will not accept late applications.)
- Interviews *for selected students only* will take place between Oct. 26th - Nov. 13th.
- Notification of participation in the program on or before **Tuesday, November 24th**.
- Notify the Center of your participation by **Monday, November 30th**.
- You must be able to attend **all orientation and debriefing sessions** in order to participate in either program (+Furman Engaged in April).

HOW CAN I APPLY?

Visit the Cothran Center website

<https://www.furman.edu/cothran-center-vocational-reflection/student-programs/focus/>

QUESTIONS?

ASK QUESTIONS NOW...OR CONTACT US LATER!