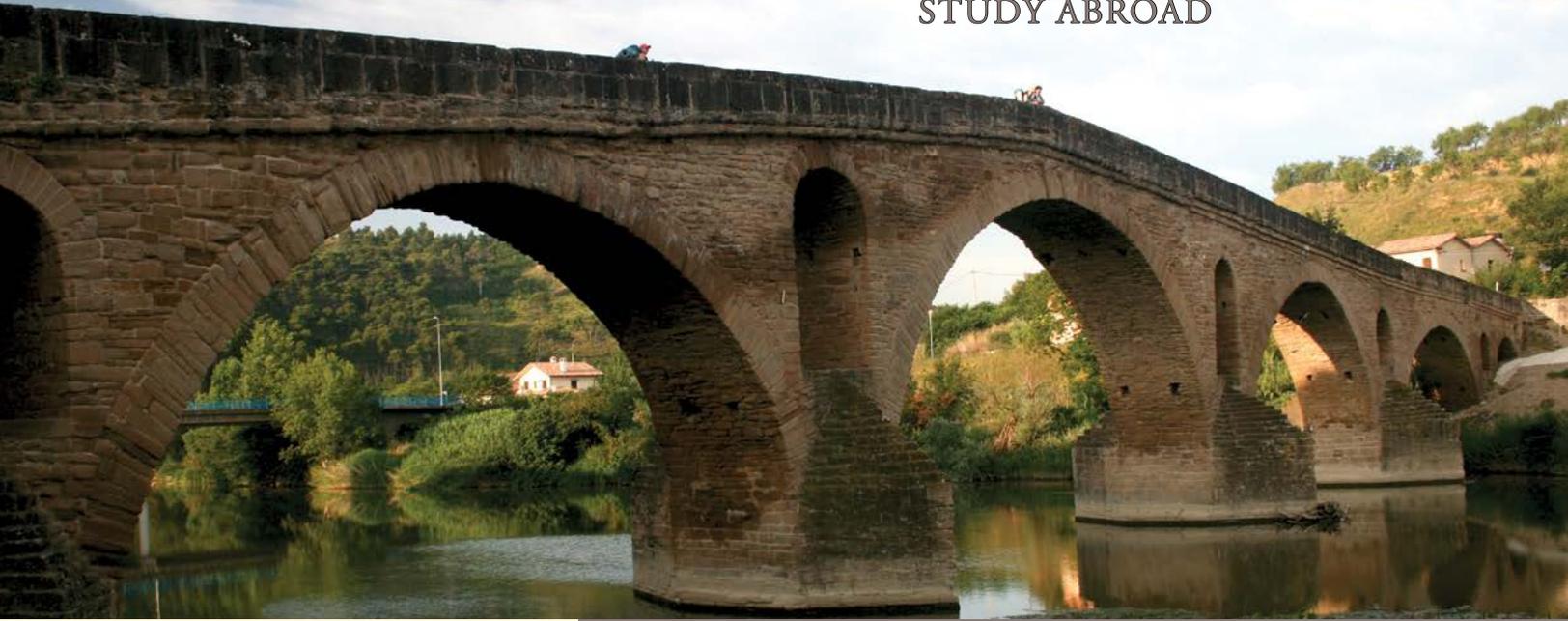


Pierce on the Camino

STUDY ABROAD



“Modern-day pilgrimage is a journey toward self-awareness, acceptance and a renewed commitment to live an authentic life. I constantly met new companions as I walked to Santiago. The easy way that people from all over the world could spontaneously create community along ‘the way’ never ceased to move me and gave me a taste of the joys of being a global citizen.”

Dr. Douglas F. Challenger, Professor of Sociology
From an article in *Radius* Magazine about his
2007 Camino Pilgrimage

The world is waiting for you.

The Franklin Pierce Study Abroad Program on the Camino de Santiago immerses students in the same journey that eight centuries of pilgrims have experienced. Approximately 15 students participate in a one semester, long-distance walk through southern France and across northern Spain along the old pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela.



Walking as a pilgrim, carrying a backpack, staying in pilgrim hostels, country inns and monasteries, walking with other Franklin Pierce students and a professor, you travel on foot between 10 to 15 miles a day. Slowing down to “human speed,” leaving behind the ordinary concerns of your daily life, and unplugging from the Internet, your iPod and cell phone, brings rich rewards that are rare in today’s world--the intimacy of prolonged solitude, the beauty of the natural world you feel with all your senses, the gratitude from many acts of kindness extended to you, and the joy of sustained conversation with others in your group and with fellow pilgrims from all over the world.

FranklinPierce
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An **education** that **matters.**

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The Camino Study Abroad Program

Program Summary

This semester-long international program involves approximately 15 students accompanying a faculty member on a long-distance walk along one of the oldest and most loved pilgrimage routes in the world--the Camino de Santiago. The Camino is a sacred path that dates back to ancient Celtic, Roman and Medieval times, and is walked today by thousands of people each year. The journey is an unforgettable adventure of group travel that engages students 100% in active learning and challenges them to grow on many levels--intellectually, physically and spiritually.

Travel Logistics

Every week you walk with a different small group of fellow students whom you get to know well through spending time together and taking responsibility for one another's safety and well-being. Each student carries a "Pilgrim's passport," a document stamped at each hostel, monastery, government and cultural site visited from the Pyrenees to Santiago de Compostela. You are also free to walk alone, engage with the European locals practicing your French and Spanish language skills or with fellow foot-travelers from around the world, from many religions, different native languages and with different reasons for undertaking the pilgrimage. You enjoy the many historical sites and beautiful landscapes along the way. On occasion, your group is responsible to shop and cook a meal for your entire Franklin Pierce group. Together you walk across varied terrain and in all kinds of weather until you reach the famous Cathedral of St. James in the city of Santiago de Compostela.

A Life-Changing Experience

Perhaps the most important aspect of walking the Camino is that it grants time for serious reflection as the pilgrimage to become its own self-creating experience. Each student keeps a personal journal and participates in regular group meetings along the way. After the journey is over, pilgrims commonly speak of having gained a broader perspective, a deeper love of humanity, a renewed eagerness to learn, a sense of freedom, the satisfaction of accomplishment, personal happiness, focus and confidence. Once back in the U.S. students participate in a two-day retreat to discuss how they can integrate the lessons of the Camino into their lives at home, and they write a final reflective essay on their overall experience.

When do we travel?

Camino Study Abroad students take two preparatory courses offered exclusively for Camino participants in the July summer session--The Camino Seminar and the Language for Travelers course. The Camino Pilgrimage itself runs from mid-August to early November. The trip concludes with a two-day Reintegration Retreat at a summer camp location near Franklin Pierce University.

Costs

The actual cost of the Camino Study Abroad Program depends on airlines, exchange rates, etc. The cost will be fixed during the spring preceding The Camino Pilgrimage. In addition to regular fall tuition and room and board, students should expect to pay a program fee. The student's room and board fees go toward helping to pay for lodging and meals on the Camino. The program fee covers all travel expenses (air, train, bus, shuttles), special tours and museum visits while abroad, and the two-day retreat upon returning home.

Financial Aid

All financial aid (federal, state, private and Franklin Pierce University aid) that students would ordinarily be eligible for also applies to The Camino Study Abroad Program.

Camino Pilgrimage Courses and Credit (Students earn 12 course credits)

- Languages for Travelers (3 credits)
- The Camino Seminar (3 credits)
- The Camino Pilgrimage (6 credits)

How to apply

Students must complete an application and submit it by the published deadlines. Students will be conditionally accepted if they have achieved a 2.67 grade point average or better by the end of the fall semester and maintain their GPA through the spring semester. Conditional acceptance will be determined at the end of the semester prior to departure.

After introductory meetings in the spring semester prior to departure, the University will set up brief individual interviews with Camino Study Abroad applicants. A final group is selected with priority given to accepted Seniors, then Juniors, then Sophomores.

If there are more applicants than spaces available, the University will establish a prioritized standby list. This list will be utilized if spaces become available.

Questions?

For additional information on The Camino Pilgrimage Study Abroad Program contact:

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