

WALK IN EUROPE

General Information

WHAT IS THE WALK?

The Walk in Europe is a project that is entirely unique to Franklin Pierce University and has been part of the curriculum since 1969. Approximately twenty-five students are chosen to participate in the semester-long project, a long distance walk through several European countries. On back roads and walking paths, often far away from the typical tourist's itinerary, the Walk has been to some of the most spectacularly beautiful areas of Europe. The project's leaders set the broad outline of the overall route but student teams determine each day's walk of about fifteen miles.

Once every six to eight days, as a member of a three-person team, each student takes an active part in the Walk's leadership. In addition to mapping out the day's route, the team's basic responsibilities include finding a site for our 30' x30' tent, and shopping and cooking meals for the group. Virtually every aspect of the project's daily management is the team's responsibility. Working together to find solutions to the very real problems inherent in moving a large group through foreign lands in this way is both challenging and rewarding. Once off the team, students are free for the days until their next van duty to simply walk, one of the healthiest of activities, and enjoy the countryside and small towns of Europe.

The sheer adventure and vitality of the project profoundly affects the participants' outlook on the world. Combining many elements, the Walk is structured to compel an engagement with the Europeans, with their cultures and with their lands, and an exploration of one's connection to the Walk group and to the larger world community. It is an opportunity for personal discovery and growth within an extremely dynamic and supportive environment that also demands cooperation and responsibility to the group.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the project is that it grants time for serious reflection. Each walker is required to keep a journal, to contribute to the Walk Website and to submit a final essay. Returning walkers most commonly speak of a broadened perspective, a renewed eagerness to learn, a sense of freedom, accomplishment and personal happiness, clarity, focus and confidence. Invariably, students who have participated have described the Walk as the single most valuable learning experience of their years at Franklin Pierce University and, often, of their lives.

WHERE WILL WE BE WALKING?

We have not yet determined the specifics of the route for the Walk for it varies from year to year, but the route will start in Vienna, Austria and probably include Switzerland, France, and Spain. We will make a detailed description of the route available when it is finally determined. We're sure our route will be spectacular, but we hope students are drawn to the Walk primarily because they like the idea of it and not because we're going to be walking in any specific place.

WHEN WILL THE WALK TAKE PLACE?

In order to go on the Walk students must take 2 preparatory courses that are offered exclusively for Walk participants in the July summer session prior to our departure. The Walk itself will be from late July or early August through early November. Including the summer session, the Walk semester runs from July through early November.

WHAT ARE THE COURSES, AND HOW ARE CREDITS AWARDED?

Walk participants typically earn 15 course credits, but the college gives students the option to earn just 12 – this is the minimum amount of credits. All participants are encouraged to earn 15 credits. You'll pay the same tuition whether you earn 12 or 15 credits.

In the summer session the group will take:

- 📚 Language for Travelers; covers the rudiments of practical communications skills in applicable languages, 3 credits.
- 📚 Walk Seminar; a lecture/discussion course that introduces a wide range of philosophy, literature, history, and current events as preparation for the Walk. 3 credits.
- 📚 The Walk itself, the back roads and wonders of Europe becomes our classroom. 6 credits.

As part of the Walk semester you may choose from the following options:

- ✚ Independent Study, may be related or unrelated to the Walk. Study may be in any area. Must be approved by faculty sponsor and department head. Proposal for independent study must be in place, registration complete and appropriate forms filed no later than May 1, 2009.
3 credits.
- ✚ Directed study, an individual study under faculty supervision of any existing course in the catalogue. Must be approved by faculty sponsor and department head. Proposal for directed study must be in place, registration complete and appropriate forms filed no later than May 1, 2009.
3 credits.

You may, of course, choose any other class available during the summer session, provided its time-slot does not conflict with Walk courses. Regularly scheduled summer session courses will be billed at summer course rates and are in addition to the Walk semester course fees.

WILL IC COURSE REQUIREMENTS BE WAIVED FOR WALK PARTICIPANTS?

- ✚ For sophomore participants: *Experiencing the Arts* has been waived
- ✚ For juniors: *Reason and Romanticism* or *Ancient and Medieval Worlds*, and *Science of Society I* are waived.

WHAT DOES THE WALK COST?

Actual Walk costs depend on airlines, our cargo van rental, exchange rates, etc. The cost will be fixed as we progress toward spring. In addition to regular Fall Tuition in expect to pay \$6200.00, as well as a \$1,000 non-refundable study abroad fee. (This amount includes roundtrip airfare, meals, youth hostels/camp grounds fees, museum fees, etc.). Remember that this cost for the Walk will be offset by the fees that you **won't** be paying for room & board, fees, and books in the fall. The Walk semester should be about the same cost as a typical semester on campus.

Your summer courses are covered by your Fall Tuition cost; you will be responsible for room and board if you stay on campus during the summer session when you are taking your Language for Travelers and Walk Seminar courses.

WHAT DOES THE WALK FEE COVER?

All travel expenses (air, train, bus, ferry), hotels for the first and last nights, three meals a day while walking, a meal allowance in the cities, and occasional stays in hotels, youth hostels and camping areas. The fee also covers group camping and cooking equipment, first-aid supplies, van rental, and books for the Walk Seminar and Language for Travelers courses.

Because some of you will commute to school or live off-campus during the summer session, **housing is not included in the Walk course fee**. If you intend to live on campus during the second summer session you must notify the housing office

DOES FINANCIAL AID APPLY TO THE WALK?

Yes. The Walk is wholly sponsored by Franklin Pierce University. That means that all financial aid (Federal, State, private, and FPU aid) that you would normally be eligible for also applies to the Walk semester. In this respect the Walk semester is a set of courses like any other at Franklin Pierce University.

HOW MUCH SPENDING MONEY SHOULD I BRING?

That's largely up to you. You'll spend a lot of money just on coffee and perhaps that little pastry to go with it. Even though we eat real well, on the average walking day you'll take great pleasure in stopping at a café or two, if only to sit and write. We suggest a minimum of \$1000.00. Keep in mind that there will be approximately 100 walking days so a student must budget her/his spending money accordingly and the Euro exchange rate, you'll want \$7-10 per day for the Walk.

IF I DO THE WALK, WILL I GRADUATE ON TIME?

With wise use of the year before the Walk, and taking advantage of independent and/or directed study options built into the Walk semester, most students can (and do) graduate on time.

HOW IS A WALK GROUP SELECTED?

A student must complete an application and submit it to Stella Walling prior to the end of the Fall 2008 semester to receive the highest priority.

No new applications will be accepted after February 1st.

A student will be unconditionally accepted if (s)he has achieved a 2.67 grade point average or better by the end of the Fall semester of the previous year that the student is looking to travel, maintains his/her GPA through the spring semester of that school year, and fulfills other criteria below. A sophomore, junior or senior student with a 2.3 GPA at the end of the Fall semester will be **conditionally** accepted and must achieve a 2.67 GPA by the end of the Spring semester. If the student does not achieve a 2.67 by the end of the spring semester, (s)he may file a written appeal to the Walk Liaison Officer requesting acceptance to the Walk program. Acceptance of the appeal will be at the Walk Liaison Officer's discretion. Any student below a 2.3 GPA at the end of the Fall semester will **not** be accepted.

After introductory meetings in the Fall semester, we will set up brief individual meetings with Walk Applicants. Priority is given to accepted Seniors, then Juniors, and then Sophomores. **Once a student has been accepted for the Walk, (s)he will need to make an initial \$1,000 deposit that confirms her/his space no later than March 1st.** Once accepted, a student must attend all Walk meetings unless prior arrangements are made.

Should we have more applicants than spaces available, we will establish a prioritized standby list and if spaces open up with the Walk, we will work through the standby list.

WHO IS LEADING THE 2009 WALK?

Professor Carlos Zeisel of Franklin Pierce University will be leading The Walk. Additional Walk Assistants will be hired at a later date. Any Walk leaders and assistants will have had extensive experience that qualifies them for Walk leadership positions.

DO I NEED TO HAVE CAMPING EXPERIENCE OR DO I NEED TO BE IN SHAPE?

The Walk often benefits most those who have never done anything like it. While being in shape is a good idea, some past participants have increased their strength and endurance on the Walk. Being in shape before the Walk will simply mean that your first few weeks of walking will be much more enjoyable. It is important, however, to be in good health. The most important preparation is to purchase proper gear and footwear, and to get your footwear broken in before the Walk begins. This is not an endurance/outward bound kind of project. If you are sick, or for any legitimate reason cannot walk the route, you can always ride the van to the evening's site.

IS THERE ANYONE ON CAMPUS WHO CAN ANSWER QUESTIONS RE: THE WALK?

The Walk is housed within the FPU Humanities Dept. You may contact Stella Walling with any questions you have at x4147, Stella@franklinpierce.edu or in her office, Edgewood room 006. Walk Applications should be submitted to Stella Walling as soon as possible.
