

Furman University Brussels Internship Program Fall 2010

Updated 11/15/09

When?

Fall Term 2010: August 15-December 15

Who will go?

Approximately 18 Furman juniors and seniors. The program is open to majors from all departments, but is particularly applicable to majors in Political Science, History, Communications Studies, Economics, Business Administration, and Accounting. Professor Bruce Brown from the Department of Economics will be the Furman program director.

How can I apply?

The program requires two applications. The first application is available on line at:
<http://ps.furman.edu/engaged/internships/brussels/>

This application and a resume are to be e-mailed to ashlee.bullock@furman.edu no later than December 17, 2009.

Interviews will be held during the first week of Spring Term, and those who are accepted will be notified by January 25, 2010. Those accepted to the Furman program will complete a second application to our partner agency, Educational Programmes Abroad (EPA). This application will require considerable time since it will be used to determine the best internship for each student. **It will be due no later than February 16, 2010, accompanied by a non-refundable deposit of \$500.00.** The only exception to the “non-refundable” rule will be the unlikely rejection of a Furman application by EPA.

Where will we live?

In apartments with other Furman students and students from other colleges working with EPA. EPA is responsible for locating and assigning housing to students; student preferences with regard to roommate(s) will be taken into account.

What internships are available?

All students in the program will participate 25 hours per week in an internship that suits his or her interests. Brussels is the “capital” of the European continent. The institutions of the European Union are in Brussels (Parliament, Commission, Council of Ministers), as are interest groups, major corporations, media organizations, NGOs, foreign embassies, corporate offices, banks, consulting firms, law firms and many more.

Past interns have worked for members of the European Parliament from Ireland, the UK, Finland, Denmark, Greece, and Italy; NGOs such as Caritas Europe, Pax Christi International, and the European Public Health Alliance; public relations firms such as Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide; the U.S. Mission to the EU; and international banks such as State Street Bank.

What languages do I have to know?

English. If you have the appropriate linguistic skills and want to work in a second language, EPA *may* be able to find an internship for you in which that language is spoken. Regardless of placement, you will discover that your co-workers are multilingual.

How will I get an internship?

EPA is responsible for finding internships that match student interests. Employers will also have a say in the process, so students will need to put their best foot forward when interviewing for the internship. EPA will arrange an internship interview for most students during their first week in Brussels, but final placements are generally not made until the last week of August.

What courses will be offered? Furman students will take *four* four-credit courses.

Each student will take two courses taught by the Furman program directors:

- 1) A Furman internship course. Any student may choose to take PS 508 or BUS 503, and there are also internship courses in Communications Studies and Economics for those majors.
- 2) IDS 372: Survey of European Issues. This interdisciplinary studies course includes readings and three weekend trips to points of political, social, cultural and historical interest in Belgium and other countries in Europe.

Students will take two additional courses of their choice at Vesalius College in Brussels. Areas of study include: Business, Economics, Communication Studies, International Affairs, Politics and History. Language courses, particularly French, are a popular choice. These courses will transfer to Furman for credit after consultation with the chairs of the appropriate departments.

In sum, students will take a four-course program as follows:

Internship course (4 credits)	Furman instructor
IDS 372 (4 credits)	Furman instructor
Vesalius college course (4 credits)	Vesalius College instructor
Vesalius college course (4 credits)	Vesalius College instructor

What will it cost?

We cannot yet determine the exact cost for the Fall 2010 program, but we will make every attempt to not exceed the amount you would be charged for fall 2010 Furman tuition, room, and board. However, students should be prepared for the actual cost to be \$500- \$1000 above that amount. The program fee will include tuition, room, meal allowance (currently planned at \$2000), internship placement and supervision, and IDS travel.

Billing will most likely occur in spring; more information will be available before deposits are due.

Will there be additional costs?

Yes. Students will be responsible for their own airfare to and from Brussels, visas, local transportation, personal items, entertainment, and food costs above the meal allowance. Brussels is expensive, but not outrageous by European standards. The best advice is to set a realistic budget and learn to prepare meals.

Will my financial aid apply?

Yes. All state and federal aid will apply, as well as Furman financial aid. If you have specific questions about your financial aid package or other sources of aid, please consult your financial aid counselor.

Where can I go for more information?

Brussels Internship Website: <http://ps.furman.edu/engaged/internships/Brussels/index.htm>

Educational Programmes Abroad (EPA) <http://www.epa-internships.org/brussels.html>

Vesalius College: <http://www.vesalius.edu/>

Will it be educational?

Travel on the European continent has formed an essential part of American educations since before the Revolution. The experience will likely become the central moment in their Furman education for many of those who go. The experience is only worthwhile, however, if you make the most of your time in Brussels, and we have therefore incorporated demanding academic work and challenging internships into the fabric of the program. Internships are like *jobs* and your courses will be serious. You should definitely go expecting to work.

Will it be fun?

You're young; it's Europe – how could it not be fun?