

The world is waiting for you.

The Pierce Walk in Europe is a project that is entirely unique to Franklin Pierce University and has been part of the curriculum since 1969. Approximately 20 students are chosen to participate in the one-semester, long-distance walk through several European countries.

On back roads and walking paths, often far away from the typical tourist's itinerary, Pierce Walkers travel to some of the most spectacularly beautiful areas of Europe.



“ I now feel that I am part of a global community because I was introduced to ever-welcoming pockets of humanity that I hadn't known existed. I also gained political and relational skills, not only from struggling to converse with the locals, but through learning to live and cooperate with 20 other people outdoors. These are skills that I will be able to apply to the business world when I graduate.”

*Jennifer Bulcao '06, Middletown, RI
Pierce Walker, Fall 2005*

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 Fall semester prior to departure, the University will set up brief individual meetings with Pierce Walk applicants. Priority is 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 Pierce Walk in Europe, contact:

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or

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The Pierce Walk in Europe



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Program Summary

This semester-long project involves approximately 20 students accompanying a faculty member on a long-distance walk through several European countries. The result is a powerful experience in practical living that challenges students on many levels and demands their best ideas, strengths and talents.

Travel Logistics

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 the 30'x30' tent, shopping and cooking meals for the group. Working together, students find solutions to the problems inherent in moving a large group through foreign countries. Once they are off their van team rotation, students are free to walk and engage with Europeans, their cultures and their varied lands. They also explore their connections to The Pierce Walk group and the broader world community.



"We have learned a great deal on this trip about our lives and life. After hearing everyone speak at our last meeting, it occurred to me that The Walk is so powerful because it interrupts our lives and gives us all a deep experience of freedom from which we can view ourselves and begin to remake ourselves in ways that we may want to."

Dr. Douglas F. Challenger, Professor of Sociology
Pierce Walk in Europe Faculty

A Life-Changing Experience

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the program is that it grants time for serious reflection. Each walker keeps a personal journal, contributes to the Pierce Walk web site and submits a final essay. Returning walkers commonly speak of a broadened perspective, a renewed eagerness to learn, a sense of freedom, the satisfaction of accomplishment, personal happiness, focus and confidence.

Route and Itinerary

While the specific details of the route for the 2009 Walk have not yet been planned, it will likely begin in northern Europe and continue to selected areas in France and Spain. Itineraries are firmly established at least six months in advance of the trip.

When do we travel?

Pierce Walk students take two preparatory courses offered exclusively for Pierce Walk participants in the July summer session. The Pierce Walk itself runs from late July through early November 2009.

Costs

Actual Pierce Walk costs depend on airlines, the cargo van rental, exchange rates, etc. The cost will be fixed during the spring preceding the Walk. In addition to regular Fall tuition, students should expect to pay a program fee of approximately \$6,200. The cost for the Pierce Walk is offset by the fees that students won't be paying for room and board, fees and books for the Fall 2009 term. The program fee covers all travel expenses (air, train, bus, ferry), youth hostels for various nights, three daily meals while walking, a meal allowance in cities, and costs to utilize camping areas.

Costs (continued)

This fee also covers group camping and cooking equipment, first aid supplies, van rental, and books for The Pierce Walk Seminar and Language for Travelers courses.

Financial Aid

All financial aid (federal, state, private and Franklin Pierce University aid) that students would ordinarily be eligible for also applies to The Pierce Walk in Europe program.



Pierce Walk Courses and Credit

(Walkers earn 12 to 15 course credits)

- **Language for Travelers:** covers the rudiments of practical communication skills in applicable languages (3 credits)
- **The Pierce 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 Pierce Walk:** offers an experiential learning adventure where the back roads and wonders of Europe become the classroom. (6 credits)
- **Optional Independent or Directed Study** (3 credits)