

## **INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS: FACULTY INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION (FIO)**

### **Mission Statement**

Francis Marion University recognizes that our community lives in an increasingly complex and interrelated global environment. At the core of our mission are imperatives to provide exceptional educational programs and experiences for students, faculty and staff, both in the classroom and beyond our campus confines. International Programs augment this mission by combining academic rigor with experiential learning through immersion in international and culturally significant settings.

### **Purpose**

FIO is a program designed to allow faculty opportunities for engaging unfamiliar cultures where they will experience new perspectives that stimulate assessments of their own perspectives and those of their students. Faculty will then return to campus with a greater grasp of global issues, toward enriching their curricula and stimulating an on-going conversation with colleagues and students that emphasize the many benefits of studying abroad.

### **Overview**

Up to five faculty members per year will be selected by the International Programs Director and the Provost's Office to accompany an International Faculty Facilitator (IFF) abroad during the week of Spring Break. The IFF will arrange itinerary and travel study priorities in conjunction with the Provost's Office and International Programs toward fulfilling the Mission Statement. IFFs, travel study locations, and disciplinary interests will change each year to address the intellectual diversity reflected in our faculty and itineraries will offer possibilities for study; enrichment that are applicable and relevant to a variety of scholarly disciplines. Applicants from disciplines outside of the traditional realms of international travel study—especially those in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields—are particularly welcome.

### **Restrictions**

Participants are restricted to tenure-track and tenured faculty who have never travelled abroad on a university-sponsored trip (excepting travel that has been sponsored by the Professional Development program). Successful applicants will not be eligible to reapply for future FIO programs. However, faculty who have completed an FIO will be eligible to apply for the IFF position and work with the Provost's Office and International Programs to set the itinerary for the next FIO.

### **Application Procedure**

Applicants will submit:

- a current *curriculum vitae*.
- a cover letter, including the faculty member's length of service at FMU, a statement describing any previous travel abroad taken while at the university, and a brief proposal indicating how the faculty intends to merge their study on the FIO program with their curriculum. Successful applications will include specific references to how the current FIO itinerary could be better tailored to incorporate

participating faculty's curriculum goals (teaching, research or professional presentations, etc.).

- a letter of recommendation from the applicant's dean or department chair with an affirmation that the applicant's proposal will stimulate departmental curriculum and will not conflict with departmental staffing needs.

**Successful Applicants** Recipients will submit a brief curriculum report to the Provost's Office, with copies to the relevant dean or department chair and Director of International Programs, no later than September 1 after travel. The report will detail how their FIO experience will be implemented in the curriculum during the next school year. Recipients will also provide an assessment of their FIO experience to the Director of International Programs with the brief curriculum report.

**Deadlines** Applications are due to the Director of International Programs by email ([jblackwell@fmarion.edu](mailto:jblackwell@fmarion.edu)) before 5 p.m. on November 9. Successful applicants will be notified on or before Nov. 18.

#### **Notes**

- All applicants should possess passports valid for at least one year beyond the initial date of travel or should apply for a passport at the time that they apply for their FIO.
- Unsuccessful applicants are strongly encouraged to reapply.

### **2016-17 FIO SCHEDULE FOR SPRING BREAK**

**Great Britain** – Travel to the United Kingdom's capital, London for visits to our exchange partner at De Montfort University in Leicester UK. Visits to the historic cities of Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester, Greenwich, and Stratford-upon-Avon offer a perfect primer in British history, arts, sciences, politics, literature, and culture. The itinerary will be tailored to include stops that are germane to the scholarly interests of participants.

#### *Main Features*

- Visits to London and exchange partner De Montfort University
- Transportation by air and public rail
- Lodging in London