



# BECOME AN AMBASSADOR

Each spring break, FMU Honors sponsors an exciting opportunity for four students (one senior, one junior, one sophomore and one “at large” applicant) to visit our existing or prospective exchange partners in Europe. Recent destinations have included Ireland, Italy, Germany, Spain and France.

FMU covers most of the travel expenses: air and train fares, hotels, and an allowance for meal costs. Travelers are responsible for additional costs, including passport fees. The group is typically led by the Honors Director and one or two other faculty chaperones.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- All applicants must be full-time, degree-seeking, FMU Honors members capable – individually or with reasonable accommodation – of handling their own luggage, climbing stairs and participating in walking tours.
- The required number of Honors credit can include Honors courses being taken the previous fall:
  - ✓ **Seniors:** 87+ earned hours, at least fifteen of which must be Honors.
  - ✓ **Juniors:** 54--86 earned hours, at least twelve of which must be Honors.
  - ✓ **Sophomores:** 22--53 earned hours, at least six of which must be Honors.
  - ✓ **Freshmen** (fewer than 22 earned hours) may apply, provided they have/are enrolled in at least one Honors course and include midterm grades in their application.

If there are no suitable applicants in one category, the Committee may select two from another.

## HOW CAN YOU APPLY?

- Submit an application form, to be circulated early each fall, including the name/department of a faculty member willing to speak in support of your application. The application deadline is typically mid-October. Applicants are typically notified before Thanksgiving.
- Attach a formal letter addressed to the Honors Director explaining why you want to serve as an Honors Ambassador and why you would represent FMU well. Be detailed and specific; a cursory letter is unlikely to be competitive.
- Other considerations being equal, priority may be given to students who have not yet traveled abroad as Ambassadors, McNair Scholars or exchange students.
- Finalists may be invited to interview with the selection committee.
- The Honors director, in consultation with the Honors Committee and other faculty chaperone, will select the Ambassadors. All participants are subject to final approval by the university provost. Selection is not final; Ambassadors may be de-selected (and a replacement named) for reasons pertaining to grades or conduct.

## WHAT RESPONSIBILITIES WILL AMBASSADORS HAVE?

- To complete a REAL on-line student assessment form after the trip.
- To attend one or two pre-trip orientations to plan and prepare.
- To familiarize themselves with the exchange partner universities and places to be visited.
- To meet and interact with students and faculty during the visit, and to represent FMU accurately and positively.
- Each Ambassador must complete an Honors Conduct Contract stipulating to expectations regarding punctuality, behavior and responsibility.